



LEAP INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

Language Policy

Palmetto Elementary Mission Statement

Palmetto Elementary is committed to developing a community of life-long learners with a global mindset utilizing inquiry, knowledge, and compassion. To this end, we empower each other to take action, accept each other's differences, and create a more peaceful green world.

As a school community, we commit to a single school culture, collaborating to make this vision a reality.

Philosophy

At Palmetto, we recognize language is central to teaching and learning. Therefore we consider all teachers language teachers. Each student is unique, and Palmetto supports the development and support of the mother tongue of all students. We know supporting our student's mother tongue language is essential to their academic growth. Palmetto commits to supporting all of our parents by providing a learning community that promotes and supports language diversity.

Purpose

This policy aims to outline the value of language diversity in the school and support all language learners and their families.

Terminology

- ❖ **Language of instruction:** The language in which an IB World School delivers IB programmes and courses to its student population.
- ❖ **Response language:** The language in which IB students engage in internal or external assessment.
- ❖ **Language course:** In the MYP, DP, and IBCC, an academic course in which IB students acquire a new language or improve their knowledge of a language and its literature.

Languages Offered

The language of instruction and response language in the school is English.

Practices

The school offers the following language courses: Spanish in grades Kindergarten through Fifth. The language is taught through cultural connections utilizing a variety of strategies.

- Connecting to the grade-level unit of inquiry

Palmetto Elementary

5801 Parker Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(561) 202-0401 West Campus (561) 202-0402 East Campus

Danny Moya, Principal

Jennifer Mooney, Assistant Principal

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- Concepts
- Theme
- Learner Profiles
- Music
- Collaboration
- Stories/Literature
- Videos
- Digital Media
- Classrooms have Spanish labels

Reading and Writing Instruction

All teachers are teachers of language. Students learn to read and write through a variety of strategies.

- Whole group read aloud
- Small group reading instruction
- Small group writing instruction
- Independent reading and writing instruction
- Digital reading resources
- Varied levels of reading materials
- Adding written responses to charts and graphs (ex. KUD chart, wonderwall etc.)

Oral Language

Listening and speaking learning engagements are provided throughout the day in a variety of lessons.

- Class discussion
- Partner discussion
- Presentations
- Asking questions
- Responding to peers and teacher
- Collaborative projects and presentations
- Creating digital projects

Visual Language

Students are provided visual texts in the shape of posters, charts, labels, word walls, anchor charts, digital media, movies, flags etc.

- Variety of visual texts is available in each room
- Labels with visuals using our World Language (Spanish)

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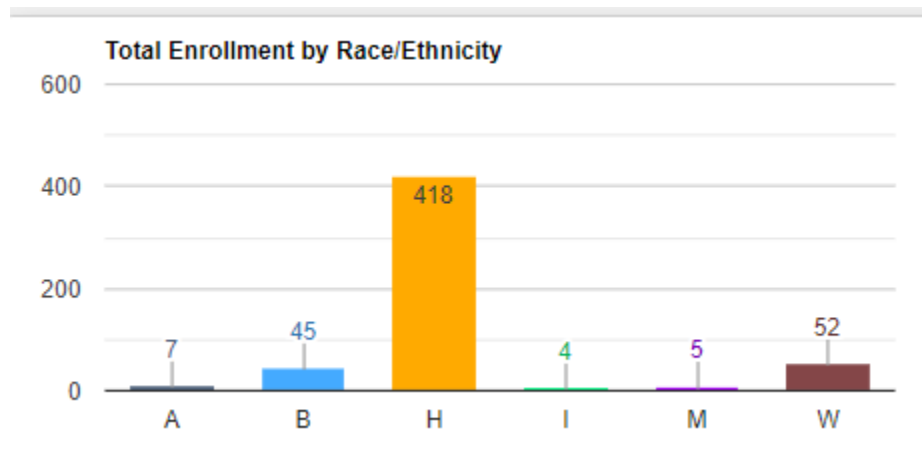
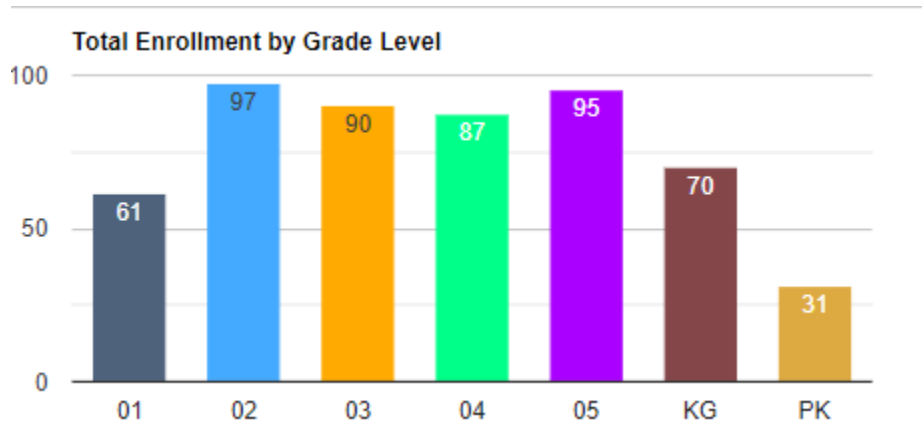
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- Visual vocabulary strategies in the upper grades
- Performances and presentations
- Digital media

School Population 2023-2024

531 Total Enrollment break down:

The majority of the students speak Spanish. Other languages include Creole, Pashto, French, Farsi, and Parisian. Palmetto Elementary teachers strive to create a learning environment where all students are comfortable and confident language learners. Students are given various opportunities to use language through engaging activities, including using digital media to record themselves in commercials and making movies and video clips. This allows students to become confident in their language skills in various contexts. Students are encouraged to use language to be inquirers by participating in transdisciplinary experiences that provide a way to gain authentic language skills.



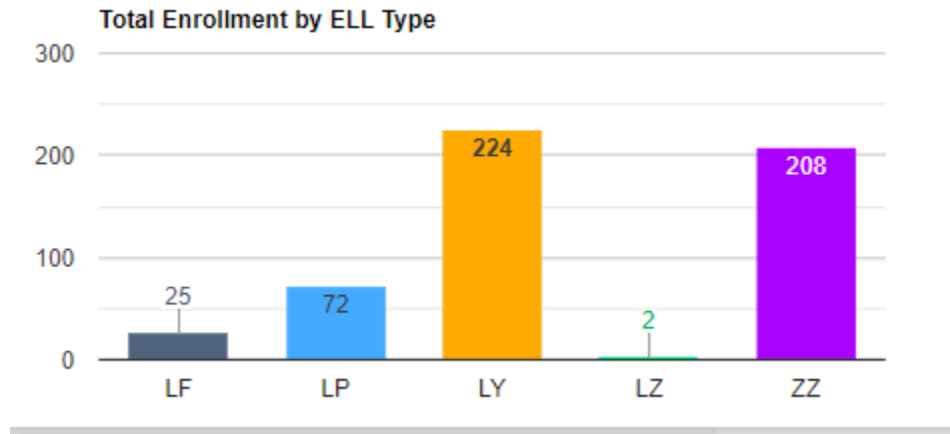
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English Learner Learners (ELL)

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides Federal funds to the School District of Palm Beach to supplement English language instruction to ensure that all English Language Learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic language proficiency in English, and meet the same challenging State of Florida academic achievement standards as all Florida students are expected to meet.

Title III in Palm Beach County provides:

- Supplemental instructional materials for students
- Supplemental professional development for teachers, administrators, and non-instructional staff
- Parent involvement calendars
- A summer language acquisition program for secondary English language learners
- Additional bilingual staff to support families and students

Mother-Tongue Support

Mother Tongue refers to a language learned first; the language is known best and used by a student. Many of our students speak a language other than English as their mother tongue, and many are bilingual. Many staff members are bilingual, some are multilingual, and they are from various cultures. We support mother tongue language at our school using the following strategies:

- 70% of the Teachers have their English Language Learner endorsement
- ELL teachers who speak other languages and provide push-in support to

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students during reading and math

- School Advisory Council meetings are translated
- Parent communication is translated
- 3 Language Facilitators on staff to support home school communication, including parent conferences
- Learning strategies specifically to support ELL students
- Materials in the media center in Spanish

Media Literacy

The media specialist works with teachers to support the unit of inquiry through the media center.

- Creating book displays related to different grade-level units of inquiry
- Reading stories related to the unit of inquiry
- Providing materials to teacher relating to the unit of inquiry
- Books in Spanish

Additional support

- Coordinator for English Speakers of Other Languages to support students, parents, and staff
 - District professional development on learning strategies to support English Language learners ●
- Leadership team meets weekly and discusses needs of English Language Learners
- Imagine Learning a digital platform used by students who are English Language Learners

Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders, including students and parents, teachers, and administrators, agree to implement the language policy. They also agree to the following:

- ❖ Students:
- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ Parents:
- ❖ Coordinator:

Evaluation of Policy

The IB faculty and administration remain deeply committed to ensuring the success of the language policy. Toward this end, the faculty and administration will review the policy regularly with an eye toward improvement. The policy will be reviewed annually by the PYP Coordinator

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and members of the staff and community stakeholders. This policy was last reviewed on August 2023.

Policy Distribution

School Website <https://www.palmbeachschools.org>

Policy Committee

Whitney Fisher- PYP Coordinator

Danny Moya- Head of School

Sheilagh Stevens- SAC Chair/ Teacher

Stephine Peck- Learning Team Facilitator