



Harvard Elementary School Primary Years Programme Language Policy



The mission of Harvard Elementary School, with the support of our community, is to empower each student with global awareness, knowledge, skills, and values necessary to make a better world.

At Harvard, we believe:

- All teachers are language instructors. Teachers and parents play integral roles in a student's language learning and development.
- All students are language learners, bringing their own background and contributions to the classroom.
- Language is an expression of culture and is a significant component in encouraging understanding and tolerance of other perspectives.
- Language learning incorporates listening, reading, speaking, writing, and media literacy.

The language tools and skills necessary to become effective communicators are developed and reinforced at Harvard Elementary School. The purpose of written and spoken language is to communicate clearly, concisely, and persuasively so as to express beliefs and values. The purpose of listening and reading is to acquire information and be exposed to others' points of view. It is our goal to cultivate openness to the perspectives, values, and traditions of all individuals and communities.

While Harvard offers language instruction primarily in English, some students are English Learners (EL). EL students receive differentiated instruction and support in all areas of instruction, as needed. All faculty involved in the teaching of EL students have received training mandated by the state. The English Language Arts and Mathematics curricula (TEKS) were written by the state of Texas and are supported by the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Spanish is the additional language taught at Harvard. Students, Pre-K through 5th Grade (ages 4- 11), receive biweekly language instruction in Spanish. Our Spanish teacher provides support in oral and written Spanish, as well as an understanding of Hispanic culture. We continue to seek ways to provide students with increased exposure and practice time.

To support our diverse population, Harvard continues to expand the classroom and library collections and is committed to the acquisition of books, digital media, and additional literature.

Support for home and school connections is provided through school and district resources including:

- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Harvard website
- ✓ Academic Vocabulary
- ✓ School Social Media
- ✓ Digital Resources
- ✓ IB at Home Flyers
- ✓ Parent Square
- ✓ School newsletters
- ✓ Houston ISD website
- ✓ Literature and conversation at home

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) provides language learning throughout all grades and classes, including specialty classes and enrichment in Art, Music, Technology, Science, Foreign Language, Library, Math, and Physical Education. As a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Magnet School, additional learning opportunities are provided in lab settings. In these labs, discipline-specific language is integrated through reading, listening, speaking, writing, and media literacy.

Harvard teachers attend professional development offerings not only within the PYP, but those that support development in all disciplines. Teachers returning from these offerings fuel a collaborative environment open to sharing and improving teaching practices.