Language Policy

Philosophy

At W.T. Moore Elementary, we believe that language is vital for shaping global citizens who are internationally minded in the 21st century. We feel that language instruction is the responsibility of all teachers in order to develop communication skills in all students. Language development is a process that crosses all subject areas and includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

In teaching the elements of language, teachers value and consider the students’ current level of language acquisition, diverse cultural backgrounds, prior knowledge, life experiences, and learning styles. The goal at W.T. Moore is to create students who are life-long learners, considerate citizens, and effective communicators with diverse audiences.

Language Instruction

Language instruction at W.T. Moore Elementary includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Mastery of these language skills are essential for developing effective communicators and life-long learners. Students need ample practice opportunities in order to develop language skills; therefore, instruction includes the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Listening/Speaking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Wonders Reading Program (McGraw-Hill)</td>
<td>-W.T. Moore Writing Plan and individual Student Writing Portfolios including narrative, informative, opinion, and research pieces</td>
<td>-Annual participants in the 4-H Tropicana Speech Contest (4th-5th Grade)</td>
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<td>-Accelerated Reader Program</td>
<td>-Journaling</td>
<td>-Computer based learning programs (i.e. iReady)</td>
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<td>-Early Interventions in Reading (EIR)</td>
<td>-Graphic Organizers</td>
<td>-Listening Centers in primary grades</td>
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<td>-Phonics for Reading (Phonics and Phonemic Awareness development)</td>
<td>-Text-based writing prompts</td>
<td>-Projects and Presentations</td>
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<td>-Ready Florida LAFS - ELA</td>
<td>-Writing process</td>
<td>-Guest speakers and readers</td>
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<td>-Leveled Readers and Guided Reading groups</td>
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<td>-Lindamood-Bell Seeing Stars and Visualizing/Verbalizing Programs</td>
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Methods and Programs

The teachers and support personnel at W.T. Moore utilize a variety of best practices, programs, and resources to support language development and acquisition across the subject areas. Teachers strive to meet the needs of individual students through differentiated instruction and engaging lessons that
incorporate multiple learning styles and interests. Current practices and programs in place include the following:

- Accelerated Reader
- Wonders Reading Curriculum
- Ready Florida LAfS ELA
- Reading Intervention/Support Programs (EIR, Lindamood-Bell, Phonics for Reading, etc.)
- Quarterly Writing Focus (narrative, opinion, informative, research)
- Book Club

**Foreign Language Instruction (Spanish)**

Spanish is W.T. Moore’s second language of instruction for students in grades K – 5. Spanish is a part of the Special Area rotation for all students. The Spanish teacher has a dedicated classroom space, which she arranges and decorates to support language acquisition for students. The Spanish teacher utilizes food, art, drama, and other elements to teach the language and culture.

**English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

W.T. Moore boasts a diverse student population that includes students whose mother tongue is not English. Through school-based resources and district support provided by Leon County Schools, W.T. Moore has support for these students when they join our Mustang family.

The goal of Leon County Schools and W.T. Moore is to promote language acquisition and to introduce and develop skills used in the classroom. Students enter the ESOL program through the following process: First, all students who enroll at W.T. Moore complete a home language survey that helps to identify students whose mother tongue is not English. Students whose primary language is not English is administered the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) within 30 days of enrolling. The results of the WIDA determine eligibility for the ESOL program. If a student qualifies for the ESOL program, the classroom teacher, who is either ESOL endorsed or working towards completing his/her ESOL endorsement, is responsible for meeting the language needs of the student.

The goal of the ESOL program is to help the student develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening and speaking skills are developed through a variety of reading strategies including choral reading, classroom discussions, inquiries into student learning, and other activities. Reading and writing skills are developed through appropriate phonics and fluency instruction, vocabulary development through the use of visuals, and developmentally and culturally appropriate texts that support the student’s current level of language acquisition. Practice opportunities are provided to allow the student to participate in classroom activities cooperatively and independently.

The district provides ESOL training, professional development, as well as access to the courses needed to obtain an ESOL endorsement.
Hearing Impaired (HI)

W.T. Moore is home to Leon County School’s elementary Hearing Impaired program. The program serves students in Leon County, as well as surrounding counties, who have hearing impairments. W.T. Moore provides services to students as outlined in each student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP). The program boasts a full-time Hearing Impaired teacher, an instructional paraprofessional, and multiple interpreters. Language instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary for these students is delivered through American Sign Language (ASL). Some students receive all instruction in the HI classroom; however, some students receive all instruction in the mainstream classroom through the assistance of an interpreter.

Support Staff and Services

W.T. Moore serves students with diverse cultural and educational backgrounds, and we recognize that students come to us with a variety of educational needs and abilities. In order to support the academic success of all students, support is provided through multiple avenues:

- Problem Solving Team (PST) – PST includes school leaders, teachers, ESE program specialist, school psychologist, school social worker, referral coordinator, and the behavior specialist. Together all individuals work together in the problem solving process to identify strategies that can support the academic or behavioral issues that students may demonstrate.
- Exceptional Student Education (ESE) – The ESE program services students by providing specific support for students with specific learning needs. The goal of the ESE program is to service students in the least restrictive environment based on the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Gifted and Talented – The gifted and talented program includes a pull-out program for students who qualify for the program; however, the program also pushes into classroom to provide additional enrichment opportunities for all students. The program seeks to promote creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking through enrichment opportunities for students.

Roles and Responsibilities

The faculty and staff at W.T. Moore understand that language acquisition and development is an essential element of learning and development effective communicators. We believe providing instruction and practice in the elements of language (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

The teachers at W.T. Moore feel that language instruction will:
- be age appropriate and consistent.
- be differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
- be evident in planners and lesson plans.

The IB Committee will review this policy annually and revise to reflect current programs, resources, and practices in language instruction.