



## Avery Trace Middle School Language Policy

### I. Purpose

At Avery Trace Middle School, we believe that language development is a part of every aspect of a student's day. Every person at Avery Trace Middle School contributes to the development of language learning. Language learning includes reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We believe in the importance of learning additional languages to help the development of the whole person. We value the diversity of our Avery Trace family and honor the diversity in our community. Our language of instruction is English. We currently offer Spanish as our Language Acquisition course.

### II. Definitions

- a. Mother Tongue: "The language(s) learned first; the language(s) identified with as a "native" speaker; the language known best; the language used most." Mother tongue is the language the student learned first and is the prominent language used outside the school for the student.
- b. Second Language or Language Acquisition: Language acquisition describes the language learned subsequent to a first language with the goal of accessing the language with competency outside of the classroom, therefore actualizing the IBO learner profile.
- c. English Language Learners (ELL): ELL instruction is provided to those students for whom English is not the student's first language. An assessment by ELL teachers will determine proper placement.

### III. International Baccalaureate: Middle Years Program (MYP)

- a. Primary Language – The primary language of instruction at Avery Trace Middle School is English. Based on the State Standards, we provide rigorous, balanced literacy programs for all our students with the expectation of meeting or exceeding their grade level in English. All students will develop a fluency in English.
- b. Language Acquisition Instruction: Language Acquisition is currently offered to our students in Spanish to encourage the students to learn an additional language and appreciate the cultural diversity among our student population and community. It is the goal of Language Acquisition to support our students as they achieve multilingual efficiency.

- IV. **Mother-Tongue Support:** Avery Trace Middle School supports families whose native language is not English. We encourage the development of their mother tongue and culture both at home and at school. We support families coming into our school to share their language and cultures with our Avery Trace family.

- V. **POW TIDE**- POW TIDE is a mnemonic device used throughout Tennessee Schools. Its purpose is to assist students in creating thoughtfully prepared and organized writing that uses evidence to support and explain their constructed response. POW TIDE is a universal school wide literacy strategy used to help students clearly express their thinking and comprehension. The consistent scoring rubric used across the academic disciplines promotes effective and rigorous writing. The device provides guidance to students and teachers to successfully meet the writing components of the state standards in the Language and Literature classrooms and throughout other academic content areas.

P-Pull apart the prompt

O- Organize my notes

W- Write and say more

T- Topic intro: restate and respond

I-Important evidence

D- Detailed explanation

E- End

#### **VI. Professional Learning on Language Policy**

- All teachers will receive yearly training and review on our school's language policy.
- All teachers will receive professional learning on POW-TIDE yearly.
- All new teachers to Avery Trace Middle school receive additional professional learning on our language policy and using POW-TIDE during new teacher trainings.

#### **VI. Informing the Community**

- Parents and guardians will be informed about our language policy at our open house.
- Our language policy will be listed on the Avery Trace MYP website.

**VII. Review Committee**- The MYP committee, with the support of their teams/departments, will continue to review, support, refine, and build our Language Policy once a year. We will review the policy every year to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our students and provide a report to the entire staff, parents, and community.