

2016- 2017

VMMS Language Policy

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School Language Philosophy



Vista Magnet Middle School is committed to language acquisition for all students. We believe teaching language is the responsibility of all teachers and is delivered through a holistic approach which transcends disciplines. We recognize that the students language development is the responsibility of all stakeholders: parents, students, teachers, administrators, and staff. As such, these stakeholders must work together in providing students with the support needed for high quality language education.

We also believe that all students should have the opportunity to experience learning a second language. This provides enriching experiences that are a basis for comparison within their primary language as well as a foundation for an international education. Through effective communication in another language, students are sensitized to cultural diversity and better able to understand the global world in which they live, preparing them to be active participants in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Language Profile



Vista Magnet Middle School is located in Vista, California near San Diego. The demographic breakdown of Vista residents is the following:

Population Characteristics of Vista, CA (2000 and 2010 Census)

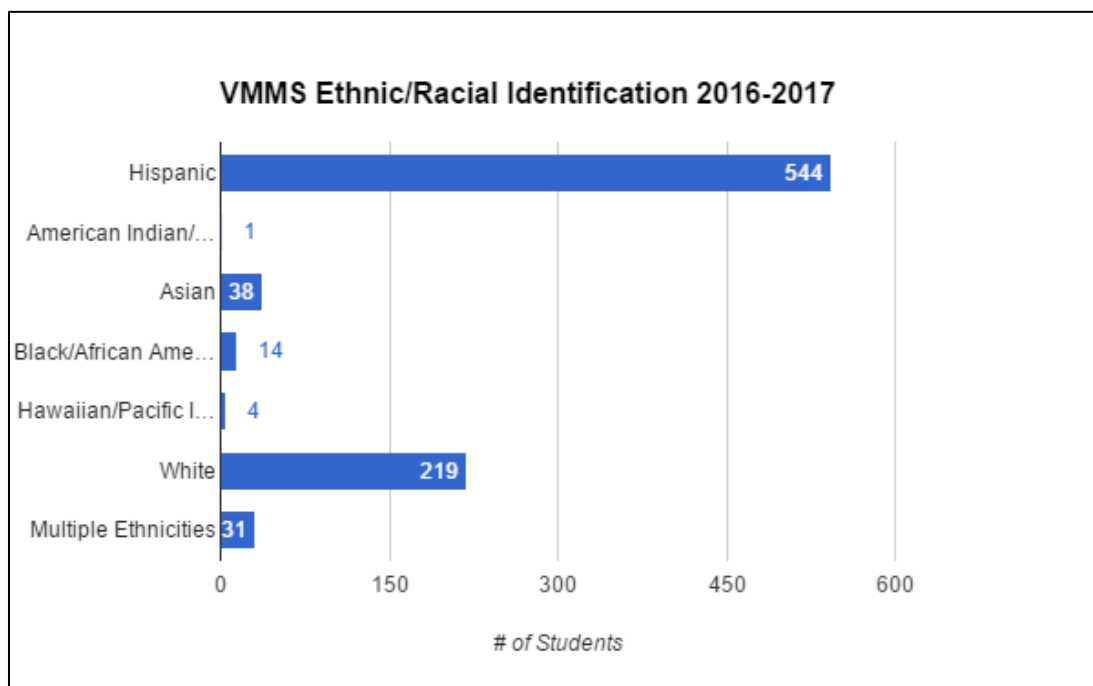
Population Characteristics (2000 and 2010 Census)					
	2000	2010	Percent of	Difference	
			Total	Numeric	Percent
Hispanic	34,990	45,380	48%	10,390	30%
Non-Hispanic	54,867	48,454	52%	-6,413	-12%
White	44,844	38,287	41%	-6,557	-15%
Black	3,535	2,753	3%	-782	-22%
American Indian	440	336	< 1%	-104	-24%
Asian	3,206	3,806	4%	600	19%
Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	526	615	< 1%	89	17%
Other	161	175	< 1%	14	9%
Two or More Races	2,155	2,482	3%	327	15%
All Ethnic Groups	89,857	93,834	100%	3,977	4%

Within our county (San Diego County), English and Spanish are the primary languages spoken at home:

Languages other than English spoken at Home (San Diego County, 2012)

	Number	Percent of People Who Don't Speak English at Home
Spanish or Spanish Creole	731,697	66.1%
Asian and Pacific Islander Languages (details below)	234,974	21.2%
Other Indo-European Languages (details below)	91,965	8.3%
Other Languages (details below)	48,231	4.4%

As a magnet school that draws equally from the different boundaries within our community, our school site reflects the demographics of the city of Vista:



At Vista Magnet, English is the primary language of instruction, learning and communication used in the school. Student proficiency levels in English are classified in these 3 categories: 50% are native English speakers, 44% are reclassified as fluent English speakers, and 6% are

English Language Learners with a native language other than English. Our school provides language acquisition courses in Spanish and Spanish for Spanish Speakers. Additionally, interested students have the option of attending language labs, in which they can independently study English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Mandarin and Japanese using Rosetta Stone.

Language and Literature

California state law requires that the primary language of instruction in public schools is English. English is also the primary language of the majority of students attending Vista Magnet Middle School. As such, Language and Literature classes are based on an English language curriculum with an emphasis on critical analysis of texts. Students derive arguments and observations from cited sources.

Language Acquisition

The focus of Language Acquisition is to foster an appreciation for and understanding of other languages and cultures, as well as provide a skill base for further language learning. Students learn to speak, listen, read, and write in Spanish. For students whose mother tongue is Spanish,

Vista Magnet offers Spanish for Spanish speakers for students to continue enhancing their language skills as well as becoming bilingual.

Mother Tongue Support

At Vista Magnet we continually work to support the development of mother tongue language skills for all students. The following practices and services are in place to offer support and preservation of a student's mother tongue:

- pairing students with a student of the same mother tongue
- using teacher mentors who speak the same mother tongue
- providing home communication in mother tongues (newsletters, phone calls, flyers, etc.)
- providing school signage in mother tongues
- using translators for presentations, parent/community nights, and conferences as requested
- encouraging students to speak their mother tongue in informal situations

- hired bilingual Community Liaison to provide family support of students

Language Support Systems (ELD)

Vista Magnet Middle School, as part of the Vista Unified School District, complies with state and national requirements regarding services for students not proficient in English, as well as for students who are identified as needing special educational services. Students identified as having special educational needs with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are served by a special education department which collaborates with Language & Literature and Language Acquisition teachers to develop modifications and supports as necessary. Both English Language Learners and students with IEPs are supported through inclusion in the content areas, with specialized individual and small group instruction guided by the appropriate staff as needed.

https://vistausd-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1356773296076

Technology Learning Center and Language/Library/Media Center



All students have access to the school's Library. The Library is open before and during school. Most books in the Library are in English. A section is dedicated to our Language Acquisition classes offered in Spanish.

Assessments



- Standardized assessments are given in Language and Literature.
- VUSD has policies in place to accommodate needs of Language Learners. As well, Language Learners are required to take the California English Language Development Test each fall to monitor English proficiency.
- The MYP program is an inclusive program. Students with special educational needs will receive accommodations for assessments as stated in their Individual Education Plans or 504 Accommodation Plans.
- Please refer to the Vista Magnet Middle School International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Assessment Policy for more information on assessment.

Professional Development

Educators, staff, and parents are given opportunities to collaborate, communicate, and learn regarding best practices and needs of students in the instruction and implementation of language development and language acquisition. Teachers and staff grow as language teachers through our Professional Learning Community time, collaboration with district specialists, and workshop/networking opportunities.