

GIFS Language Policy

As an international school with a diverse community of learners, GIFS has developed the following language philosophy:

The language philosophy is comprehensive, school wide and includes the twin goals of advancing mastery of a high-quality academic curriculum through the medium of English language instruction and the acquisition of English-language proficiency for all students. Students learn language, learn through language, and learn about language in an environment where they explore concepts, solve problems, organize information, share discoveries, formulate hypotheses, collaborate with others and explain ideas. Our integrated curriculum focuses on what we want GIFS students to know and what we want GIFS students to be able to do. We will provide evidence to document the learning GIFS students achieve.

Student and Family Demographics

Appendix 1A--Demographics

Current Practices of GIFS--

At GIFS, English is the language of instruction and inclusion. The language of instruction in all subjects during the school day is English except for courses in Spanish and Korean acquisition. Our classroom teachers are proficient in English. English is the common language used for most collaborations, planning meetings, and communications within the school.

GIFS Elementary (Pre-K--5)

The Primary School at GIFS provides a strong, challenging curriculum in English based on U.S. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and American Education Reaches Out (AERO) standards. Our students become skilled and knowledgeable in the following subject areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, with subject specialization in Art, Music, PE/Health, and Tech. ELL services are provided as needed. *For assessment practices in the elementary see page 7 in the GIFS Assessment Policy.*

GIFS Middle School (6-8)

The Middle School at GIFS provides a strong, challenging curriculum in English, based on U. S. CCSS, AERO and McRel(science) standards. Our students become skilled and knowledgeable in the following subject areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, with subject specialization in Art, Drama, Music, PE/Health, Spanish, Korean and Tech. GIFS Middle School aims for each student to reach the highest level of literacy and proficiency in English and achieve at least elementary level proficiency in a second language. ELL services are provided as needed. *For assessment practices in the middle school see page 5 in the GIFS Assessment Policy.*

GIFS High School (9-12)

The High School at GIFS provides a strong, challenging curriculum in English. In the high school, students follow a modified syllabus that uses selective elements of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in Grades 9 and 10 and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) in Grades 11 and 12. Both syllabuses are adapted by staff to ensure that they are relevant, stimulating, and truly international. Our students become skilled and knowledgeable in the following subject areas: Language A (first language), Language B (second language), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Psychology, Art, PE/Health, Spanish, Korean, and ICT. GIFS High School aims for each student to reach the highest level of literacy and proficiency in English and achieve at least elementary level proficiency in a second language. ELL services are

provided as needed. *For assessment practices in the high school see page 3 in the GIFS Assessment Policy.*

GIFS English Language Learner (ELL) Policy

GIFS believes that learning with peers is vital for student development not only academically but also socially and emotionally. With that in mind, GIFS' ELL program ideally occurs in the student's classroom with collaboration of the ELL instructor and classroom teacher. However, pullout ELL is used when a lack of English skills are preventing a student from succeeding and interacting within the regular classroom environment.

1. Each family will answer a home language questionnaire—PreK/K through 12
2. Every student is eligible to receive ELL support at GIFS.
3. Every enrolled student and new enrollee will be given an entrance and exit ELL exam.

For further details see GIFS Admissions Policy.

Pathway for Pre K to receive ELL services

1. All current Pre K students and new enrollees will have their level of ELL intervention determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the ELL Coordinator.
2. Pre K students participating in pullout ELL instruction will have their English proficiency assessed on an ongoing basis by the classroom teacher during regular instruction time. When the teacher, in consultation with the ELL Coordinator, feels confident that the student has achieved a level of fluency that enables them to participate in regular classroom activities, the decision can be made to return the student to the regular classroom on a full time basis.

Pathway for K through Grade 3 to receive ELL services

1. Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, all current students and new enrollees, K-3, will take the IDEA Proficiency Test 1 Oral (IPT 1).
2. Students will be eligible for ELL services at GIFS with a score of intermediate or below on the IPT 1 Oral test.
3. Each student who receives ELL services will be re-evaluated in January and June of the concurrent school year to determine future service. The reevaluation will be based on:
 - a. IPT 1 Oral score
 - b. Classroom teacher or ELL Coordinator recommendation
 - c. And/or the GIFS Language Policy Committee

Pathway for Grade 4 through Grade 5 to receive ELL services

1. Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, all current students and new enrollees, Grades 4-5, will take the KET English exam. All new enrollees will also take the IPT 2 Oral exam.
2. Students will be eligible for ELL services at GIFS with a score of:
 - a. Under 60 percent on the KET
 - b. Intermediate or below on the IPT2 Oral
3. Each student who receives ELL services will be re-evaluated in January and June of the concurrent school year to determine future service. The reevaluation will be based on:
 - a. KET exam scores
 - b. Classroom teacher or ELL Coordinator recommendation
 - c. And/or the GIFS Language Policy Committee

Pathway for Grade 6 through Grade 10 to receive ELL services

1. Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, all current students and new enrollees, Grades 6-10, will take the PET English Exam. All new enrollees will also take the IPT 3 Oral Exam.
2. Students will be eligible for ELL intervention at GIFS with a score of:
 - a. Under 60 percent on the PET
 - b. Intermediate or below on the IPT 3 Oral
3. Each student who receives ELL services will be re-evaluated in January and June of the concurrent school year to determine future service. The reevaluation will be based on:
 - a. PET exam scores.
 - b. Classroom teacher or ELL Coordinator recommendation
 - c. And/or the GIFS Language Policy Committee

GIFS' Separation of ELL Services Grades 6-10

GIFS will provide different ELL services for students based on need. One track of ELL intervention will be based on speaking and listening proficiency. A different ELL intervention program will support students with grammar, reading, and writing needs.

Plan for IB Diploma Students

In Grades 11 and 12 students will choose English as a 1st or 2nd language in consultation with the IB Coordinator based on their English language proficiency level and/or other language needs.

Language A: School-supported self-taught

GIFS is committed to the preservation of each and every student's mother tongue. In the Diploma Program, provision will be made for Language A: School-Supported Self-Taught in any of the languages available. The DP Language A teachers and the DPC will provide support in terms of the syllabus and guidelines. GIFS will provide help for the student and family to find a suitable tutor.

Language Use at GIFS

Due to the demographics of GIFS' students, families, and staff many different languages are spoken. We support the speaking and writing of languages other than English when:

1. It is beneficial to student learning
2. It is beneficial to the operational needs of the school
3. It serves the health and welfare of students
4. It does not exclude others in social settings

GIFS Language Policy – Language Resources in the Library

Print, magazine and online database:

The library holds a range of periodicals including *Time*, *National Geographic*, *National Geographic Kids*, *International Artist*, and *Korea*. The library holds both Korean and English language newspapers including *The Korea Herald* and *Korea Times*.

The library will purchase *Questia* as an electronic research database.

Korean Literature:

The library is developing a dedicated Korean literature section, holding titles suitable for students from Pre-K through to grade 12.

Korean Language Learning:

The library is developing a suitably sized Korean language learning textbook collection to cover instruction for grades 3 to 12.

Graded ESL Literature:

The library is developing a book collection for ESL students that employs the Lexile measurement system.

GIFS Bibliographic and Referencing Protocol

GIFS accepts the use of the following bibliographic and referencing style: Chicago.

TOK and Extended Essay referencing and bibliographic style will be referenced in Chicago style.

Preferred Spelling Practice at GIFS

At GIFS, we take a world view of the English language and we are aware of differences between the vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling used by those educated in the American and British traditions. Therefore, GIFS will accept the standard spelling of any English word from either of the two traditions.

**Appendix A
GIFS Demographics**

Total # students	79
Nationalities – Korean, USA, French, Pilipino, Thai, German, Indian, Israeli, Iranian, Norwegian, Australian, Japanese, Italian, Malaysian, Romanian, Chilean, Canadian, Indonesian, Russian, Danish, Brazilian, Vietnamese, Swedish, Singaporean	24
Home Languages spoken -	Korean – 28 English – 31 Other - 20
# Receiving ELL service	17 students – 9 lower school 8 middle and high school

Gyeongnam International Foreign School (hereinafter referred to as GIFS) was founded in 2004 by Mr. James Haddon and Mrs. Amy Haddon. GIFS is the second of two schools that are owned and operated by the Haddon family. The first school, Busan Foreign School (BFS), was opened in 1996 in Busan.

GIFS is an international day school located in the city of Sacheon, a mountainous coastal area on the south central tip of South Korea. When it opened its doors, there were just 16 students but it has welcomed an average of 90 students per year for the past five years. At its peak, there were 150 students attending.

GIFS serves a diverse learning community of Pre K to 12th Grade classrooms. Our students come from around the world and speak many languages. It is not unusual for our students, families, and staff to speak 2-4 languages quite well. At present our student body consists of twenty-four nationalities including those from Korea (students must have lived three years overseas), the United States, many European countries, and other Asian countries. While the primary language of instruction is English, we also offer Spanish and Korean language instruction. The GIFS teaching staff is also diverse and includes teachers and administrators from Korea, Canada, the United States, South African, and Korean nationals.

Sacheon city is a mid-size community that combines small businesses, large manufacturing facilities, engineering, and rural enterprises amidst cultural and educational opportunities. The region includes the two small coastal cities of Sacheon and Samcheonpo, and a nearby larger city named Jinju where several technical colleges and universities are located. It is a thriving and growing manufacturing region that includes a Korean Air Force Base, a small regional airport, shipbuilding, and aeronautical industries. Important historical sites are numerous in the area.

Many of our students' parents' are employed by multinational companies such as Shell, Chevron, Boeing, DSME, and others, and work as engineers in the oil, gas, aeronautics, and shipbuilding industries. At GIFS, we take advantage of our location by visiting local and national historical sites, participating in local cultural events, and interacting with other international schools in the area. This year, for example, our students took field trips to a local pottery, visited a strawberry farm, and went kayaking on Namhae Island. GIFS is a member of the South Korea Activities Conference (SKAC) that provides students the opportunity to participate in regional sporting competitions, Model UN debates, a Spelling Bee, and other arts and humanities activities.



We offer an excellent educational environment in a modern purpose built facility. All classroom teachers at GIFS hold undergraduate degrees, many hold graduate degrees, and all must hold teaching qualifications from their respective country of origin.

The vision created by the founding members of GIFS states: "GIFS has a welcoming environment where students gather to receive a quality education that prepares them for academic success. Our inclusive school provides students from many nations and cultures an opportunity to learn and practice relationship skills that will foster harmony and positively impact the world." That vision guides decision making in all aspects from staffing, to curriculum, scheduling, food service, safety, and the many other factors that impact the learning experience for our students.

Our mission is to inspire each learner by providing educational opportunities that nurture their social, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth. In recent years, our students have gone on to top-tier universities and colleges including NYU, Boston College, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Baylor University, Brock University in Canada, and others world wide. GIFS is an SAT, PSAT, and AP test center.