# Literacy Across the Curriculum

**Introduction:**
At Al Zuhour Private School, we recognize that literacy skills are essential for student success not only in English language arts but also across all subject areas. We also understand that many of our students are English language learners, and as such, we have developed a policy that ensures literacy is taught and supported across the curriculum to help these students develop the language skills they need to succeed.

**Definition of Literacy:**
Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak, listen, and use language effectively in a variety of contexts. It encompasses the skills necessary to understand and communicate information, ideas, and arguments.

**Policy Statement:**
Our school is committed to promoting literacy across the curriculum for all students, including English language learners. To achieve this, we will:

- Provide professional development for teachers: Our teachers will be provided with professional development opportunities to learn how to integrate literacy skills into their subject area teaching. This training will focus on how to support English language learners in developing the language skills they need to succeed in their subject area classes.

    - ♦ Provide workshops and training sessions on literacy instruction strategies for teachers facilitated by Language Teachers
    - ♦ Nominate literacy coaches or instructional specialists to provide ongoing support for teachers.
    - ♦ Offer online resources and webinars on literacy instruction and strategies for English language learners.
    - ♦ Encourage teachers to collaborate with colleagues across different subject areas to share best practices and effective strategies through peer observation and cross curricular PD sessions.

- Use a variety of instructional approaches: Our teachers will use a variety of instructional approaches, including direct instruction, cooperative learning, and student-centered activities, to promote literacy skills. Teachers will also use a range of materials, including texts, visuals, and multimedia, to engage students and support their learning.

- Support students in developing academic language: Academic language is the language of the classroom, and it is essential for students to understand and use this language to succeed academically. We will support English language learners in developing academic language by providing targeted instruction and language support.

    - ♦ Provide English language learners with targeted language support, such as vocabulary lists, word banks, and sentence starters.
    - ♦ Encourage students to use academic language in their writing and speaking by providing examples of appropriate academic language for different subjects.
    - ♦ Collaborate with English as a second language (ESL) teachers to integrate language instruction into content areas.

- Use assessment to inform instruction: Our teachers will use ongoing assessment to monitor student progress in literacy skills and adjust instruction accordingly. This assessment will include both formative and summative assessments, as well as informal assessments, such as observations and student conferences.

    - ♦ Provide teachers with training on how to use formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress in literacy skills.
    - ♦ Encourage teachers to use informal assessments, such as observations and student conferences, to get a more complete picture of students' literacy development.
    - ♦ Use assessment data to identify areas of strength and weakness for individual students and adjust instruction accordingly.

- Provide resources and support: Our school will provide resources and support to both teachers and students to promote literacy skills. This includes access to books, technology, and other materials that support literacy development, as well as specialized support for English language learners, such as tutoring and language support services.

    - ♦ Provide students with access to books, technology, and other materials that support literacy development, such as online reading resources and audiobooks.
    - ♦ Guided Reading in the Elementary section
    - ♦ Achieve 3000
    - ♦ Integration of Vocabulary Focus in all subjects to increase verbal reasoning and literacy skills

- Additional staff, such as reading specialists or librarians, to provide targeted literacy support for students.
- Offer tutoring and language support services for English language learners to help them develop literacy skills.

- Involve families in literacy development: We recognize that families play a critical role in supporting student literacy development. Therefore, we will involve families in literacy development by providing resources and information about how to support their children's literacy skills at home.

    - Provide families with resources and information on how to support their children's literacy development at home, such as recommended books, reading strategies, and online resources.
    - Encourage teachers to communicate regularly with families about their child's progress in literacy skills.
    - Provide opportunities for families to attend literacy-focused events, such as family reading nights or literacy workshops.