Mira Loma High School

International Studies Program
Alignment with SJUSD
Strategic Plan 2010-2015
Valuing diversity and excellence, the San Juan Unified School District’s mission is to educate and inspire each student to succeed and responsibly contribute to a radically evolving world by providing innovative, rigorous, student-focused instruction and programs in a safe, caring, and collaborative learning community.
The premise that the real world does not fragment complex issues into neatly defined topic areas challenges us to move out of isolated classrooms to examine curricular connections via standards. At the heart of the IS Program is the belief that bringing cultures together creates understanding, compassion, and sense of purpose in people. The IS Program challenges our diverse community to explore and grow, experience our potential to make a difference, and embrace our responsibility to build a better world.

*Relationships.....Relevancy.....Rigor.....Responsibility*
International Studies Program
Mission Statement

The International Studies Program’s mission is to prepare students for the 21st century. The IS Program uses research-driven, innovative, rigorous, student-focused instruction via a humanities-based, interdisciplinary, and community service-learning pedagogy.

*Relationships.....Relevancy.....Rigor.....Responsibility*
Strategy 1: Implementing effective instructional strategies, integrating technology and utilizing assessment data to actively engage each student to increase achievement on state standards, 21st century skills, and personal educational plans.

International Studies Interdisciplinary TouchPoint Curriculum

- IS TouchPoints are standards-based and are infused in all non-IB English, VAPA, and most Social Science classes reaching the largest population of students at Mira Loma HS.

- IS TouchPoints are continuously evaluated by interdisciplinary teams of teachers at each grade level impacting 850-900 students annually.

- IS TouchPoints employ current technology to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information while focusing on the ethical issues surrounding the access and use of information technologies.

- IS TouchPoints integrate VAPA curriculum providing a well-rounded fine arts education enriched with digital media and technology-based instruction.

- Data is collected following each TouchPoint and is used to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional strategies in relation to standards and test scores to increase student achievement.

Evidence: 4 TouchPoints at each level, on-line galleries and samples of student work, rubric score summary data reports, and CST scores.
Strategy 2: Expand human, community, and financial resources and ensure they are used most effectively to achieve our mission and objectives.

International Studies Community Partnerships

- IS Student/Parent Organization (ISSPO) is one of the largest pro-active parent organizations on campus providing support via time, fundraising, sponsorships, resources, workshops, and social events.

- IS teachers have been the recipients of two STARS Foundation Innovative Learning Grants to support IS project-based learning that employs technology and the arts.

- IS students are offered rigor and support through funded programs including AVID, MYP, IB, and CSU Sacramento’s ACE Program.

- The IS Program has an international partnership with Orfanitorio de Mazatlan through the International Studies Service & Learning Exchange.

- The IS Program has been featured regularly in local newspapers, international newspapers, and television stations.

- IS Students have been featured guest speakers at a variety of school and community venues.

Evidence: ISSPO, STARS Foundation, Inside Arden Newspaper, Channel 10, Channel 31, Univision, Mazatlán Pacific Pearl, El Debate Sinaloa, El Democrata, Matador Capers, Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, Mother’s of Multiples Organization, Sacramento Rotary Club, ISSPO Spaghetti Feed, Mira Loma International Night, Mira Loma Faculty Meetings, and Parent Information Nights.
**Strategy 3:** Ensure effective two-way human, community, and financial resources and ensure they are used most effectively to achieve our mission and objectives.

**International Studies Access & Communication**

- Dialogue and input about the IS program is open to all members of the Mira Loma community via a variety of venues.
- Parents, students, and staff are provided with informal and formal written opportunities to evaluate the IS Program.
- All IS materials have been translated into Ukrainian, Russian, and Spanish to reach our ELL population.
- Modified curriculum and IS pathways for Special Education students are available via IEP’s and regular communication with special education teachers.
- Community businesses and partnerships are provided annual reports, presentations, and personalized thank you cards reflecting how and where their contributions were utilized.

_Evidence:_ ISSPO meetings, IS TouchPoint Communication Protocol for teachers, Collaborative Thursday agendas, bi-weekly Council of Coordinators meetings, MatMatters monthly IS Articles, auto-dialer curriculum and event updates, the MLHS Webpage, SJUSD Parent Survey, annual IS written staff evaluation, translated IS Materials, IEP’s, and the Annual State of IS Report, ISSLE DVD’s 2007-09.
**Strategy 4:** Design and implement a system that creates challenging personal educational plans at each appropriate level in collaboration with students, families, and staff.

**International Studies Pathways & Advising**

- IS students and parents/caretakers sign an IS Acknowledgement of Program Expectations confirming a partnership in learning commitment with the IS Program.

- *Diploma Path:* Students fulfill all CSU/UC college prerequisites, 150 hours of Imagination, Action & Service hours with a minimum GPA of 3.0. At graduation they wear distinctive IS Diploma regalia and earn transcripts reflecting IS Diploma recipient.

- *Certificate Path:* Students fulfill high school graduation requirements with higher rigor, pass all IS classes with a C or higher, complete 150 hours of Imagination, Action & Service hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5. At graduation they wear distinctive IS Certificate regalia.

- IS Coordinators and an IS Counselor meet with students individually and in groups to develop, revise, and implement 4-year plans with parents/caretaker input.

- IS Coordinators, an IS Counselor, and teachers conduct academic, attendance, and behavioral interventions with IS students and parents/caretakers.

*Evidence:* IS Acknowledgement of Program Expectations, IS Diploma & Certificate FAQ page, IS 4-Year Planner, articulation cards, IS intervention notes.
Strategy 5: Integrate relevant technology into teaching, learning and system operations to best achieve our mission and objectives.

International Studies Integration of Technology

- IS TouchPoints employ current technology to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information while focusing on the ethical issues surrounding the access and use of information technologies.

- TouchPoint Curriculum integrates internet research, internet correspondence, word processing, and multimedia presentation using technologies available to staff and students in computer labs and the portable lab.

- IS students submit their work digitally for review, partake in online critique sessions with their instructors and their peers, edit and resubmit projects, and develop online galleries of their work in VAPA courses.

- IS teachers have been trained and are using DataDirector to extract and examine demographic information and CST scores to improve student achievement.

- IS teachers are at the beginning stages of developing benchmark assessments following each TouchPoint using DataDirector

- IS teachers are being trained using Zangle to communicate grades and attendance.

Evidence: Final TouchPoint projects, on-line galleries, links to on-line resources, DataDirector, Zangle.
Strategy 6: Identify, model, and integrate positive character traits, as well as develop means for assessment, to help our students become contributing, responsible, and caring members of a diverse community.

International Studies Character Development

- IS interdisciplinary projects are embedded with a variety of processes that engage students in exploring, questioning, critiquing decisions and behaviors, and analyzing intended and unintended outcomes.

- The IS Community Service component challenges IS students to apply what they’ve learned in classrooms and apply it to real world experiences developing competencies beginning with personal responsibility, problem solving, effective communication, and management of time and resources.

- The IS Community Service component develops authentic cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging students in local, domestic, and international volunteer service experiences.

- ISSPO, MLHS staff, and community partnerships fund the opportunity for IS students to participate in the International Studies Service & Learning Exchange with Orfanatorio de Mazatlan at no cost.

Strategy 7: Actively engage families as valued partners in the educational process.

International Studies Family Involvement

- The IS program attracts 80-100 out of district families who come from all over the region to attend Mira Loma specifically for the IS program.

- IS Student/Parent Organization (ISSPO) is one of the largest pro-active parent organizations on campus providing support via time, fundraising, sponsorships, resources, workshops, and social events.

- IS parents/caretakers are active partners in 4-year planning, interventions, and planning for college and beyond.

- IS parents/caretakers have informal and formal opportunities to evaluate the IS Program.

- ISSPO materials have been translated into Ukrainian, Russian, and Spanish.

- IS families attend the annual Ice Cream Social, Spaghetti Feed, and International Night.

- ISSPO communicates information about College Sunday, financial aid workshops, dates and deadlines, PSAT/SAT dates, social events, counseling deadlines for articulation, and invitations to school-wide events through email and on the ISSPO webpage.

Evidence: ISSPO meetings, MatMatters monthly ISSPO Articles, auto-dialer curriculum and event updates, ISSPO webpage, SJUSD Parent Survey, ISSPO translated materials.