Information about Thai Language, Culture and History (TLCH)
New Cambridge International School, Phitsanulok, Thailand

- **What is the weekly time allocation for the teaching and learning of TLCH for Thai and non-Thai students? How is this managed eg time allocated for Thai language, time for culture and history etc**

The program is structured to cater to both Thai and non-Thai students, following guidelines provided by the Thai Ministry of Education.

1. Class Structure for Thai Students:
Thai Language (3 hours per week): The Thai Ministry of Education advises and allocates 3 hours per week for Thai language instruction. This aspect of the curriculum focuses on developing the students' proficiency in the Thai language, covering reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
Thai Culture and History (2 hours per week): Additionally, 2 hours per week are dedicated to educating Thai students about their culture and history. This component of the curriculum delves into the rich cultural heritage and historical background of Thailand, encompassing traditions, customs, historical events, and societal norms.

2. **Additional Class for Non-Thai Students:**

Thai Cultural Immersion for Non-Thai Students (1 hour per week): Recognizing the importance of cultural integration and understanding for non-Thai students, NCIS offers an extra hour of instruction. This hour is exclusively designed for non-Thai students and focuses on immersing them in Thai culture. It covers aspects like traditional practices, etiquette, festivals, and cultural norms to facilitate better integration into Thai society.
The curriculum aims to create a balanced educational experience for all students, enhancing language skills and fostering cultural appreciation. Thai students benefit from a strong foundation in their native language and culture, while non-Thai students gain valuable insights into Thai culture to support their academic and social integration within Thailand.

- **What type of teaching and learning strategies are applied to TLCH?**

The teaching and learning strategies employed for Thai Language and Culture (TLCH) at NCIS are carefully designed to provide an effective and engaging educational experience for students. These strategies aim to facilitate language proficiency and cultural understanding among both Thai and non-Thai students.

1. Interactive Learning:
Role-Playing and Simulations: Students engage in role-playing activities that simulate real-life scenarios, encouraging them to use Thai language in practical situations.
Conversational Practice: Emphasis is placed on regular conversation practice to enhance students' spoken language skills and confidence in using Thai.

2. Integrated Language and Culture Teaching:
Language and Culture Integration: Language instruction is interwoven with cultural elements to ensure students understand the cultural context in which the language is used.
Cultural Immersion: Students are exposed to cultural experiences, such as traditional celebrations, cultural exhibitions, or guest speakers, to provide a more holistic understanding of Thai culture.

3. Multimedia and Technology Integration:

Digital Learning Platforms: Utilization of educational software and online platforms for language learning, which may include interactive lessons, virtual field trips, and multimedia resources to enhance understanding.

Educational Apps and Games: Integration of language learning apps and educational games that make learning fun and interactive, motivating students to practice and improve their language skills.

4. Project-Based Learning:

Cultural Projects: Students work on projects that require researching and presenting aspects of Thai culture, encouraging independent research, critical thinking, and creativity.

Language Projects: Projects that focus on language skills development, such as creating dialogues or writing short stories in Thai, fostering language proficiency in reading and writing.

5. Collaborative Learning:

Group Discussions and Activities: Students engage in group discussions, collaborative assignments, and teamwork, promoting active participation and peer-to-peer learning.

Language Games: Interactive language games and exercises that encourage students to work together, enhancing vocabulary, grammar, and language usage in a fun and competitive manner.

6. Cultural Excursions and Field Trips:

Visits to Cultural Sites: Organized visits to museums, historical landmarks, or cultural events to provide hands-on experiences and deepen students' understanding of Thai culture and history.

These teaching and learning strategies foster a well-rounded educational experience for students, promoting not only language proficiency but also cultural awareness and appreciation. The emphasis on interactive, technology-driven, and experiential learning methods ensures engagement and effective language acquisition.

- **Are local resources eg visits to local places of interest, utilized for the teaching and learning of TLCH?**

Local resources and visits to places of interest are often utilized as valuable tools for teaching and learning Thai Language and Culture (TLCH) at NCIS. These experiences provide students with a firsthand understanding of Thai culture, history, and traditions, allowing them to immerse themselves in the local context.

1. Educational Field Trips:

Historical Sites: Visits to historical landmarks, ancient temples, and museums provide students with insights into Thailand's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Cultural Festivals: Participation in cultural festivals and events allows students to experience authentic Thai traditions, music, dance, and culinary practices.

2. Local Community Engagement:
Interaction with Locals: Opportunities for students to interact with local community members, practicing the Thai language in authentic settings and gaining cultural insights from conversations.
Community Centers: Visits to community centers or cultural organizations provide exposure to traditional crafts, arts, and local customs.

4. Culinary Experiences:
Cooking Classes: Participating in Thai cooking classes to learn about traditional Thai dishes, ingredients, and culinary techniques, providing cultural context through food.
Market Visits: Trips to local markets to learn about popular Thai ingredients, regional specialties, and traditional food preparation methods.

5. Guest Speakers and Cultural Workshops:
Inviting Experts: Bringing in guest speakers, such as historians, artists, or cultural experts, to provide specialized knowledge and insights into Thai culture and history.
Cultural Workshops: Conducting workshops on traditional Thai arts, like Thai dance, traditional music, or traditional clothing, to offer a hands-on learning experience.

6. Local Art and Craft Centers:
Artisan Workshops: Visits to local artisans and craft centers, where students can learn about traditional Thai crafts, such as silk weaving, pottery, or wood carving.
Leveraging local resources and organizing visits to places of interest enriches the TLCH curriculum by providing students with practical, real-world experiences that complement their classroom learning. These experiences foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Thai language and culture.

- **How accessible is the TLCH curriculum for non-Thai students? Are they taught in separate classes? How is the teaching and learning managed/differentiated, and supported?**

The accessibility of the Thai Language and Culture (TLCH) curriculum for non-Thai students at NCIS is a priority to ensure effective learning and cultural integration. Here's a detailed explanation of how the curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of non-Thai students and the support mechanisms in place:

1. Separate Classes for Non-Thai Students:
Additional Hour for Non-Thai Students: Non-Thai students have an extra one-hour session dedicated to Thai cultural immersion. This class is designed to provide specialized support and focus exclusively on the cultural aspects to aid integration.

2. Teaching and Learning Strategies:
Language Proficiency Levels: Tailoring instruction based on the proficiency levels of non-Thai students to ensure appropriate challenges and support are provided.
Cultural Relevance: Ensuring cultural relevance in language instruction by incorporating contextually appropriate language learning materials and cultural themes.

3. Language Support and Assistance:

Language Support Classes: Offering supplementary language support classes for non-Thai students to strengthen their language skills and understanding of the Thai language.

4. Cultural Sensitivity and Adaptation:
Cultural Sensitivity Training: Educating teachers and staff about the cultural backgrounds and sensitivities of non-Thai students to create a more inclusive and understanding learning environment.
Adapted Cultural Content: Ensuring that the cultural content is presented in a way that non-Thai students can relate to, understand, and appreciate.

5. Individualized Learning Plans:
Assessment and Customization: Conducting assessments to determine each non-Thai student's learning style, preferences, and areas for improvement, allowing for personalized learning plans.
Customized Learning Materials: Adapting teaching materials to suit the learning needs and backgrounds of non-Thai students, incorporating familiar contexts and experiences.

6. Peer and Cultural Exchanges:
Buddy System: Implementing a buddy system, where non-Thai students are paired with Thai students to encourage language exchange and cultural interaction.
Cultural Awareness Workshops: Conducting workshops that promote cultural understanding and awareness among both Thai and non-Thai students.

7. Regular Progress Monitoring and Feedback:
Feedback Loops: Establishing mechanisms for regular feedback from non-Thai students, allowing them to express concerns and provide input on the curriculum and teaching methods.
Performance Tracking: Monitoring the academic performance and progress of non-Thai students to identify areas where additional support or modifications may be needed. Ensuring accessibility, tailored instruction, and a supportive environment for non-Thai students in the TLCH curriculum at NCIS is fundamental to promoting effective learning, cultural integration, and a sense of belonging within the Thai educational context.

- **How is the assessment of students' learning managed and reported to parents?**

  1. Assessment Components:
  In-Class Work (70%): Continuous assessment of students' performance during regular classes, including homework, quizzes, class participation, projects, presentations, and assignments related to TLCH.
  Final Exams (30%): A comprehensive assessment held at the end of each academic term, covering the content and skills learned during the term. The final exams assess the students' understanding of the Thai language and their knowledge of Thai culture and history.

  2. Assessment Criteria:
  Rubrics and Guidelines: Clear assessment criteria, rubrics, and guidelines are provided to students, outlining expectations and grading standards for both in-class work and final exams.
  Skill-Based Assessment: Assessments are designed to evaluate various language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, and cultural understanding, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation.

3. Reporting to Parents:
Report Cards: At the end of each academic term, NCIS generates and distributes individualized report cards for each student. These report cards provide a detailed summary of the student's performance in TLCH.
Performance Breakdown: The report cards outline the student's performance in both in-class work and final exams, clearly indicating the percentage breakdown and the corresponding grades achieved.

4. Parent-Teacher Meetings:
Regular Communication: NCIS maintains open communication channels with parents throughout the academic term, providing updates on students' progress, highlighting achievements, and discussing any areas for improvement.
Parent-Teacher Conferences: Organizing periodic parent-teacher conferences where parents can meet with teachers to discuss their child's performance, academic development, and any concerns or questions they may have.

5. Online Portals and Communication:
Parent Portal: Providing access to an online portal or platform where parents can view real-time updates on their child's performance, including grades, assignments, and attendance.
Email Updates: Sending regular email updates to parents regarding their child's progress, upcoming assessments, and important school events.

6. Comments and Recommendations:
Teacher Comments: Including personalized comments from teachers on the report cards, highlighting the student's strengths, areas for improvement, and any notable achievements.
Recommendations: Offering constructive recommendations for further development and enhancement of the student's skills in Thai language and culture.
By utilizing a combination of continuous assessment through in-class work and final exams, along with transparent reporting mechanisms to parents, NCIS ensures that parents are well-informed about their child's academic performance and progress in TLCH. The balanced assessment approach allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the students' proficiency in both Thai language and culture.

- **Can students take external examinations (eg IGCSE or A level) in Thai? If so, what have the results been over the last 3 years?**

   NCIS does not offer preparation for external examinations like IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education specifically for Thai language. Therefore, there are no reported results for students taking IGCSE examinations in Thai from NCIS for the last three years.

- **How is the curriculum reviewed? How is the quality of teaching and learning in TLCH monitored?**

   The review of the Thai Language and Culture (TLCH) curriculum and monitoring the quality of teaching and learning at NCIS is crucial to ensure that the educational goals are met and improvements can be made as needed. Here's how this process is typically managed:

1. Curriculum Review:
Regular Curriculum Review Committees: Establishing a curriculum review committee comprising educators, subject matter experts, administrators, and sometimes external stakeholders to assess the curriculum's effectiveness.
Scheduled Reviews: Conducting scheduled curriculum reviews, typically on an annual or biennial basis, to evaluate the relevance, coherence, and alignment of the curriculum with educational standards and learning objectives.

2. Steps in Curriculum Review:
Assessment of Learning Objectives: Evaluating whether the current learning objectives align with the overall educational goals of the institution and the evolving needs of students.
Alignment with Standards: Ensuring that the curriculum aligns with national and international standards for language acquisition, cultural understanding, and educational benchmarks.
Incorporating Feedback: Taking into account feedback from teachers, students, and parents to identify areas of improvement and needed modifications.

3. Quality Monitoring of Teaching and Learning:
Classroom Observations: Conducting regular classroom observations by academic supervisors and administrators to assess teaching methods, classroom dynamics, and student engagement during TLCH classes.
Peer Reviews: Implementing a system where teachers conduct peer evaluations of each other's teaching methods and provide constructive feedback.
Student Feedback: Gathering feedback from students through surveys, focus groups, or suggestion boxes to understand their perspectives on the teaching quality and learning experience.

4. Professional Development for Teachers:
Continuous Training: Organizing professional development workshops, seminars, and training sessions for TLCH teachers to enhance their teaching skills, incorporate innovative methods, and stay updated with best practices in language instruction and cultural education.

5. Assessment and Data Analysis:
Assessment Data Review: Analyzing assessment data, including student performance in in-class work and final exams, to identify trends, areas of improvement, and learning gaps.

6. Parent and Stakeholder Involvement:
Parent Surveys and Feedback: Soliciting feedback from parents through surveys or meetings to gauge their satisfaction with the TLCH curriculum, teaching quality, and their child's progress.
By incorporating regular curriculum reviews, robust quality monitoring of teaching and learning, continuous professional development for educators, and active involvement of various stakeholders, NCIS ensures that the TLCH curriculum remains effective, relevant, and aligned with the institution's educational objectives. This iterative and collaborative approach fosters a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in language and cultural education.

- **What are the priorities for the development of TLCH?**

The priorities for the development of Thai Language and Culture (TLCH) at NCIS are aimed at enhancing the educational experience, promoting cultural understanding, and fostering proficiency in the Thai language. These priorities align with the institution's mission to provide a well-rounded education that prepares students for a globalized world while preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Thailand. Here are the key priorities for the development of TLCH:

1. Enhanced Language Proficiency:
Language Immersion Programs: Develop and expand language immersion programs that provide intensive language training to improve students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to Thai.
Differentiated Instruction: Implement teaching strategies that cater to various learning styles and levels, ensuring personalized learning experiences that effectively boost language skills.

2. Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness:
Cultural Integration: Foster deeper integration of Thai culture within the TLCH curriculum, emphasizing values, traditions, customs, and societal norms to enhance cultural awareness among students.
Cultural Exchange Opportunities: Facilitate cultural exchange programs, inviting guest speakers, organizing cultural events, and promoting interactions with local communities to enrich students' understanding of Thai culture.

3. Technological Integration:
Digital Learning Platforms: Leverage technology by integrating educational software and online platforms to supplement TLCH instruction, providing interactive and engaging learning experiences for students.
Multimedia Resources: Develop digital multimedia resources, including videos, podcasts, and interactive tutorials, to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of TLCH instruction.

4. Inclusive Education:
Support for Diverse Learners: Enhance support mechanisms and tailored instruction for non-Thai students, ensuring that TLCH is accessible, engaging, and effective for a diverse student population.
Diverse Perspectives: Incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum, promoting a global outlook and encouraging understanding and respect for diverse cultures and backgrounds.

5. Research and Curriculum Improvement:
Ongoing Research: Encourage research initiatives focused on language acquisition, cultural studies, and effective teaching methodologies, using the findings to continually improve the TLCH curriculum.
Curriculum Flexibility: Maintain a flexible curriculum framework that allows for regular updates and adjustments based on evolving educational practices, cultural changes, and feedback from stakeholders.

6. Parent and Community Engagement:

Parent Involvement: Encourage active involvement of parents in the TLCH curriculum development and implementation, seeking their input, feedback, and participation in school activities related to Thai language and culture.

Community Partnerships: Forge partnerships with local cultural organizations, museums, and community centers to enrich TLCH experiences through collaborative events, workshops, and cultural visits.

7. Continuous Professional Development:

Teacher Training and Workshops: Provide regular training and professional development opportunities for TLCH teachers, ensuring they are equipped with the latest pedagogical methods, cultural knowledge, and effective teaching strategies.

8. Assessment and Feedback:

Formative Assessment Enhancement: Improve formative assessment practices to provide timely and constructive feedback, guiding students towards their learning goals and fostering a growth mindset.

Feedback Integration: Actively seek feedback from students, parents, and educators to identify areas for improvement, ensuring that the TLCH curriculum is responsive to the needs and expectations of all stakeholders.

By prioritizing these areas, NCIS aims to cultivate a robust TLCH program that nurtures linguistic competency, cultural appreciation, and a sense of belonging, preparing students for a globally interconnected world while honoring Thailand's cultural heritage.

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