

# Culture, Language, and Ways of Being at TAE

**Education is strongest when it grows from culture, community, and shared ways of being.**

Tulalip's design reflects the belief that preparing students for life means helping them:

- know who they are
- understand where they come from
- learn how to live well in community
- carry forward cultural knowledge and responsibility

This approach shapes how students learn, how adults teach, and how the school relates to the community.

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## Core Cultural Elements

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### 1. Language as Identity and Continuity

The materials emphasize that language is more than communication — it carries:

- worldview
- relationships
- values
- ways of thinking
- connections to ancestors

Language learning helps students:

- understand their heritage
- feel pride and belonging
- connect across generations

**Language connects students to their history, their families, and their future. It helps carry forward knowledge, identity, and ways of understanding the world.**

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### 2. Elders as Teachers and Knowledge Holders

- cultural guides
- storytellers
- mentors
- community anchors

Their presence supports students in learning:

- respect and responsibility
- listening and reflection
- cultural continuity
- community values

**Elders help students understand who they are and how to live well in community. Their knowledge brings depth, perspective, and continuity to learning.**

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### **3. Tribal Values and Ways of Being**

- respect for others
- responsibility to community
- care for land and resources
- relational accountability
- humility and listening
- shared responsibility

**Students are learning not only academic skills, but how to live with respect, responsibility, and connection to others.**

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### **4. Culture as Daily Practice, Not Occasional Lesson**

Culture is strongest when it is lived

- routines reflect values
- relationships reflect community norms
- language appears throughout the day
- learning connects to cultural knowledge

**Culture is not just something students study. It shapes how the school operates, how people treat one another, and how learning connects to community life.**

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### **5. Preparing Students for Life in Two Worlds**

- thrive academically
- participate fully in community life
- carry forward cultural knowledge
- navigate multiple environments with confidence

**Students are prepared both for future opportunities and for their roles in sustaining community and culture.**

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## **Big-picture**

**Students thrive when education strengthens identity rather than asking them to leave it behind.**

This approach helps students develop:

- confidence
  - purpose
  - resilience
  - responsibility
  - connection
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