



# Deerfield Beach High School International Baccalaureate Language Policy

Revised September 2023

## Philosophy

The Language Profile of Deerfield Beach High School indicated that all of our IB students are Native English speakers or English Language Learners. Many of the students are multilingual. These languages represent the students' heritages and cultures. This exploration of language encourages intercultural awareness, new perspectives, curiosity, and an appreciation of our diverse world. Overall, our students represent dozens of different cultures and languages.

English is the main language of instruction for all students and teachers at Deerfield Beach High School with the exception of the foreign language classes of Spanish, French, and Japanese. All of our teachers attend training sessions provided by the Broward County School Board concerning English as a Second Language (ESOL) and the process of language acquisition. All Language A and Language Arts teachers are required to have 300 hours of ESOL training. Other disciplines require 30 to 60 hours of ESOL training.

World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) and English language learner (ELL) develops language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing independently, but at different rates and in different ways. Broward County Public Schools embraces the adopted WIDA's English Language Development Standards that represent the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and curriculum in schools. WIDA's Can Do Philosophy is based on the belief that all students bring established knowledge, skills and ways of seeing and understanding the world from their homes and their communities. Academic language – that is, language use in academic contexts in this framework – is viewed as a vehicle for communicating and learning within sociocultural contexts; the interaction between different situations and people in the learning environment. The standards framework address the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing which help educators plan balanced opportunities for language learning and take advantage of the stronger English language skills in one domain to support development in the other domains.

## Admissions

Deerfield Beach High School is a public school, so proficiency in English is not a requirement for admissions. Students who do not speak English are given a language proficiency assessment to determine their level of English proficiency. The information gathered from the assessment is used to determine the level of additional support services needed.

The IB Program at Deerfield Beach High School accepts applications from all students. Due to a number determined by the principal, we awarded a certain number seats for incoming students each year. All of those students undergo the same evaluation process which includes grades, standardized test scores, and a writing assessment. It is the goal of all of the teachers in the IB Program to provide a caring environment for all students admitted to this program regardless of language proficiency.

## **Language A**

We acknowledge the importance of including the teaching and learning of language continuously throughout the program. It is through language that crucial connections are made by students across the curriculum. Language A is limited to the English language and students are taught English syntax, grammar, and communication skills in all IB classes. All students are involved in Language A from grades nine through twelve and it aligns with the requirements of Broward County Public Schools, Florida Standards Assessment, and the International Baccalaureate Language A objectives.

## **Language B**

All Deerfield Beach High School students are required to pursue proficiency in a second language. We recognize the importance of students becoming culturally and linguistically proficient. Reading, writing, listening and speaking are all vital parts of language developments and DBHS students can choose to develop these skills in French, Spanish, or Japanese. Students enrolled in the IB Program at Deerfield Beach High School can work along a continuum of Language B instruction from grades nine to twelve. Emphasis on grammatical structures, verbal and writing skills, and vocabulary development help students develop the tools they need to become effective, multilingual communicators. The Language B courses are assessed using the assessments required by the Broward County Public Schools, Florida Standards Assessment, and the Internal Baccalaureate Language B objectives and assessment tools.

## **Language Development and Support Across the Curriculum**

Reading takes place in all subject areas. Teachers are encouraged to help students develop language skills by reading in all classes while paying attention to student progress in reading comprehension and evaluating text complexity. Teachers use a variety of practices and tools such as works lists and graphic organizers to differentiate instruction for all levels of language proficiency.

Students are encouraged to read outside of the classroom. Students are encouraged to read for information and pleasure. Students are encouraged to incorporate reading in their forms of communication by reading aloud, reading in groups, and reading expressively. Students are also exposed to a variety of genres, including but not limited to fiction, poetry, plays, trade books, short stories, newspapers/magazines, and informational texts.

Students are encouraged to develop their language skills through writing in all subject areas. Writing skills are fostered by giving students real purpose for expressing themselves through writing. They are exposed to varied, challenging, and meaningful opportunities to write that correspond to the requirements of the subject area. A variety of genres are used to develop student writing skills including but not limited to journaling, essays, and writing lab reports. Students receive skill-building feedback from teachers, peers, and other adults who are providing instruction and modeling the correct usage of written and oral language.

Students are provided ample opportunities to develop and utilize oral language across the curriculum. Beyond their daily conversations, students develop skill through oral presentations, debates, speeches, poetry recitations, songs, and dramatic readings. Teachers model the correct language usage in conversations and instructional presentations while maintaining sensitivity to the students' language proficiency and cultural background.

All students working towards the IB Diploma are actively involved in CAS activities and projects through the diploma years. Many of the projects and activities provide student opportunities to use the language of their heritage and develop their communication skills in both their mother tongue and English. Students are encouraged to select activities and projects that have personal, deep meaning and many select projects that give back to the countries and cultures that their families represent.

## **Language Support**

Within the student body there are many students who are bilingual and multilingual. These students are given opportunities to use the language of their heritage in many ways. Students are encouraged to use their mother tongue to enhance class discussions and presentations. During class, students are encouraged to bring in their own language experiences and cultural observations to share with all students. This practice supports the students' mother tongues while helping to promote a global mindedness among our students. Teachers select literary works that represent the cultural background of many of our students. This practice enhances the class discussions and helps all students develop an open mind about those cultures that are different from their own. This practice is supported by the IB Mission Statement that says, "people, with their differences, can also be right." (IBO, 2008)

The bilingual and multilingual students receive support from several areas such as media services, and English Language Learners program (ELL). The media center contains a wealth of resources that support the development of mother tongue languages. Additionally, the media specialist can obtain a variety of materials in various forms though interlibrary loan in many different languages. Deerfield Beach High School also has an ELL coordinator who oversees the language development of many of our students and assists the teachers in meeting the language needs of our students.

## **Promotion of Other Languages**

The IB Program at Deerfield Beach High School is knitted into the culture of our school therefore, all teachers, IB or Non-IB, are encouraged to uphold high standards. Meeting students' needs and student learning is paramount in the daily planning and goals of all teachers. All teachers are aware that each student is a unique individual, and each student is a future productive member of the global society. It is our hope that the interactions between different cultures represented in the student body will encourage all students to be life-long learners and inquirers who can communicate and be open minded about the differences in our world.

## **Policy Distribution & Review**

All Deerfield Beach High School IB policies are posted on the Deerfield beach High School website available for download and easy printing format.

All Deerfield Beach IB policies are reviewed annually and are subject to revision.

