

The International Baccalaureate at King's Fork High School Diploma Programme Language Policy

Introduction

A written language policy is one of the requirements for International Baccalaureate World Schools. This document defines the understanding of the importance of language for both personal and intellectual growth and then goes on to describe the language policy at King's Fork High School. It outlines the provisions that King's Fork High School has made to help students develop their mother tongues or to overcome language challenges. Finally this document summarizes the school's offerings in Language A (English) and describes how the school prepares students for global citizenship through instruction in a second language (Language B). Languages of taught and learned in King's Fork High School include English, French and Spanish. The language of communication in the school and community is English. Language usage is critical in every aspect of the IB programme.

IB Language Philosophy

The staff of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at King's Fork High School recognizes that language is central to learning, and all teachers are teachers of language. To this end, we feel that every IB course must include language instructional strategies.

At King's Fork High School the goal is to prepare students for higher education and for success as global citizens. We want our students to learn to use language to successfully compete in our global society with strong skills in oral and written communication.

Language Acquisition

Language Acquisition instruction supports the D.P. intercultural awareness and the IB Learner Profile. Learning an additional language is essential for students to understand other cultures and develop a mindset that values multilingualism and international mindedness. All Language Acquisition classes meet every school day all year long. We offer Spanish and French as our Language Acquisition options. Within Language Acquisition instruction, the goal is for all students to develop proficiency in the four modalities: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Teachers are responsible for uncovering the language needs of their students and working to serve those needs for each individual.

Language study helps students:

- communicate, understand and maintain their cultural identity
- develop and communicate mastery of content across subject areas

- analyze ideas and solve problems
- advocate for themselves and their communities
- develop intercultural and multicultural understanding

Language Challenges

English is the common language of all students at King's Fork, and all students speak English during the school day. We do not offer a program in English as a Second Language. We are committed to finding creative solutions to ensure that all students, especially those whose English fluency is still developing, are able to access the full curriculum and participate in the IB Diploma Program should they choose to do so.

Language A and B Offerings

King's Fork offers English Literature Higher Level (HL) for all Diploma Programme candidates in the 11th and 12th grades. We emphasize the development of written and oral communication in a second language which is Language B. We offer students the opportunity to study Spanish or French. All Diploma Programme candidates must study a second language.

Students begin the language study in middle school where they take the first level of the language. It is continued in high school through IB Language which is level 4 and 5. Students who have not studied language by the end of the sophomore year are enrolled in Spanish Ab Initio to meet the language requirement.

Review

This policy was updated in April 2014 and reviewed by a committee of faculty and administrators, including the DP Coordinator. The policy will be reviewed periodically by the IB Staff.

Conclusion

Language learning is a critical skill for our students. Strong language skills equip students to access opportunities in school and beyond. We endeavor to give teach them to have a strong command of written and oral language.

References

IB publications: Guidelines for developing a school language policy (April 2008) Language and Learning in the IB programmes (September 2011)