



Riverdale High School



International Baccalaureate Program

Language Policy

Philosophy

At Riverdale High School, language is a vital instrument for learning, communication, and expression. Teaching and learning is driven by the idea that through language instruction, we are encouraging intercultural awareness, new perspectives, curiosity, and an appreciation of our world's diversity. Through the exploration of language, students become communicators in our multilingual world.

Practices

Language A

In order to promote holistic learning within the context of the IB Diploma Program, the stakeholders at Riverdale High School recognize the importance of incorporating the teaching and learning of language throughout the implementation of the program. Language A is limited to English as the language of instruction of the school, since students must meet English language requirements provided by the state standards. The development of Language A is crucial as it allows students to make connections within and across subject areas. Therefore, all students are required to take Language A in grades nine through 12.

Language B

The mastery of essential language skills – reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing – is a vital part of a student's overall development. The importance of students becoming culturally and linguistically proficient in a second language (Language B) is recognized, and all students receive instruction in either French or Spanish. In realizing that not every student will reach the same level of language proficiency at the same time, a continuum of language B courses is offered that meet both the developing academic and social needs of all learners in order for all students to achieve his or her personal best.

Mother Tongue Support

The mother tongue of the majority of the students at Riverdale High School is English, which is also the language of instruction at the school. However, within our student population there are bilingual students, including those whose home language is a language other than English. Students whose mother tongue is not English are enroll in *English for Speakers of Other Language* (ESOL). Students are evaluated shortly after enrollment to assess their command of the English language. If the student is considered to be proficient they will be exited from the ESOL program, if they are not proficient, ESOL services are available which include a full time ESOL endorsed instructor and assisted by an ESOL educational paraprofessional, translation of school documents, interpreters for parents. The goal of the ESOL program is to encourage fluent language acquisition using state-recommended strategies through immersion in a regular classroom setting. Riverdale High School

supports families whose native language is not English and we encourage our parents and students to speak and develop their mother tongue at home. This strengthens the child's language skills while instilling a sense of importance about his/her culture.

Implementation / Review / Revision

Language Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more often if a need for review and/or revision arises. A policy committee made up of the IB Coordinator, IB Faculty, parent(s), student(s) and a representative from administration, will be responsible for the implementation, review and revision of the policy.