

# **Dunbar High School**

## **IB Diploma Language Policy**

Dunbar High School recognizes that language is fundamental to all learning because it permeates the entire curriculum. Therefore, throughout our curriculum, we foster the development of the language of instruction, world languages, and the mother tongue.

Every teacher at Dunbar High School is a language teacher and recognizes the importance of this role within the IB philosophy. By integrating language into every aspect of the curriculum, we are teaching students the importance of culture, diversity, and sensitivity towards others which in turn enhances their personal growth, cognitive development, and facilitates international understanding. Through the strong emphasis on language, our goal is to foster a deep understanding about language and a love of literature.

For our English Language Learners, we offer a comprehensive program through which they acquire the skills and knowledge needed to access the regular curriculum. We provide support to our students and their families to enable them to adjust to a new language, learning environment, and culture.

For our entire student population, we offer Spanish and French as world languages. The programs both support and extend the IB units. Students also learn about the cultures of people in Spanish and French speaking countries.

We promote maintenance and enrichment of the mother tongue by encouraging families to continue speaking, reading, and writing the language at home. We also recommend that families take advantage of the many mother tongue instructional opportunities available in our community.

All aspects of our language program require formal as well as ongoing informal assessments. These assessments are used to plan appropriate instruction and to evaluate student progress.

### **At Dunbar High School it is understood that:**

- Language is a primary means of communicating and learning
- The acquisition of language is a life-long process and is a central component of intellectual and personal growth
- Proficiency earned in one language is transferable to other languages, and language proficiency aids the student in acquiring competencies in oral and written communication.
- Language is an expression of culture and must be valued as an integral part of a student's identity.
- The development of the mother-tongue language is critical for maintaining one's cultural identity.
- Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding.
- Language learning must be fostered in all aspects of the school community.

- All teachers are language teachers.
- Teachers must strive to recognize the language needs of all students and work to serve these needs within and outside of the classroom.
- Equity of access to IB courses is a fundamental right of all qualified students.

## IB Language Offerings

The language of instruction at DHS is English.

DHS offers English HL as the only classroom opportunity for Language A. On a case-by-case basis and as need arises, DHS will allow students the opportunity to register for English SL. However, it is not possible to create a separate course for English SL students. Therefore English SL candidates will take part in the HL class and the teacher (s) will modify instruction and assessments to meet their needs.

Spanish SL and French SL are offered as classroom courses for Language B. On a case-by-case basis and as need arises, DHS will allow students the opportunity to register for Language B HL or Ab Initio languages. In the case of Language B HL, teacher (s) will modify their instruction and assessments within the SL classroom to meet the needs of these candidates. In the case of Ab Initio languages, students may enroll in Spanish 1/2 or French 1/2 and teacher(s) will modify their instruction and assessments to meet the higher standard of the Ab Initio course over and above the DHS College-Prep courses. Students are also encouraged to seek extra help outside of the normal school day.

## English Language Learner Program

The Lee County School District and Dunbar High School have a comprehensive, state-mandated support program for English Language Learners. Board policies and administrative regulations are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

All DHS teachers are required to have ELL training in methods of differentiation and modifying instruction in support of English Language Learners. This training is offered by the School District.

## Mother Tongue Support

DHS acknowledges the importance of developing a student's mother-tongue language in promoting personal identity, cultural heritage, and overall learning.

Information regarding students' mother-tongue is acquired through the state-mandated, district-administered, home language survey. This information resides in the school's student database and is accessible by school staff. At the beginning of each academic year, teachers receive a list of students' mother-tongues other than English. Teachers are encouraged to use this information in developing lesson plans that emphasize differentiated instruction and that honor multicultural diversity. DHS does not offer any additional mother-tongue support for languages not being taught at the school.

Families are encouraged to arrange for mother-tongue language support through the many cultural organizations residing in Lee County.