

# IB @ WKHS Language Policy

## Philosophy

At WKHS, we hold that the use of language, whether written or spoken, ought to be purposeful. In order to achieve his/her intended purpose, the user of language must also take into consideration:

- the situation within which his/her use of language must function
- the audience to whom his/her use of language must appeal
- the persona which he/she will adopt in using language

and, having given due consideration to all of these factors, design and execute an expression that will impact its intended audience in a manner which furthers its intended purpose. Thus, our language philosophy places **rhetoric** at the heart of language instruction:

**Our goal is for students to speak and write with purpose and confidence –  
and to do so successfully in multiple languages.**

Furthermore, the IB Learner Profile and the Mission Statement of the International Baccalaureate Organization together encourage students to

- become effective communicators
- develop into internationally-minded thinkers
- promote cross-cultural understanding

In pursuit of all of these worthy objectives, we believe that students are best served when

- they can read, write, listen and speak with expertise in their native language
- they have gained a working capacity to read, write, listen and speak in at least one additional language

A student who can do both of these will be better equipped to

- access meaningfully a broader range of sources of information
- comprehend multiple perspectives on events and issues
- grasp phenomena which transcend national boundaries and conduct business in a global marketplace
- express and defend their ideas and arguments to a broader audience
- assist members of their communities who speak other languages
- and most importantly: **to speak and write with purpose and confidence in multiple languages.**

### Policy Statements

- All courses (except for Group 2: Language Acquisition courses) are conducted in English, which is the native language of the majority of WKHS students
- **All IB @ WKHS** teachers are expected to assist in the development of students' expert use of English to read, write, and speak on topics both specific to the teacher's subject area and topics that reach beyond that subject area. This involves all of the following skills:
  - expanding vocabulary
  - decoding unfamiliar terms and extracting meaning based on context
  - choosing the best words to express their ideas based upon the situation and intended audience
  - developing logical sentences that conform to the common conventions of English grammar
  - sequencing ideas
  - adopting a persona or "voice" and tone appropriate to the purpose, situation, and audience
  - editing for clarity and simplicity
  - proofreading
- All students are required to complete three years of learning a second language; IB Diploma Programme Students (known informally as IB Diploma Candidate students) must complete an IB course in French, Latin, or Spanish. These courses emphasize the use and creation of authentic materials that reflect the values of the society from which they originated as well as the structure of the language itself. Spanish and French courses will be taught in the language being acquired; Latin will be used as much as is practical in Latin courses.
- Students who wish to take advantage of the Language Acquisition courses offered online via Pamoja Education ([pamojaeducation.com](http://pamojaeducation.com)) are welcome to do so if they cannot otherwise complete IB Diploma Programme or Partial Program requirements, or if they wish to add an additional Language Acquisition course to their program.
- WKHS will support any non-native English speaking student who wishes to complete his/her Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature course as a School-Supported Self-Taught Language A: Literature course. All students who wish to do this will be assisted by the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator, IB English A: Literature HL teacher, and French or Spanish teacher if the course is to be conducted in one of those two languages.
- **IB @ WKHS** teachers will support students who wish to take part in school-sponsored language immersion exchange programs by making all practical accommodations to the students' assignment schedules, keeping in mind that dates for submission of work to the IB Organization cannot be changed.

Policy last updated 11/29/22. Future review date October 2024.