

Language Policy

Introduction

Accredited in 2012, G-Star School of the Arts' International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme offers a rich academic program of study aligned with our school's mission statement as well as the mission statement of the International Baccalaureate Organization, 'to help create a better more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect' and 'promotes educational achievement, professionalism, and strength of character through a focus on both arts and academics.' Central to the education of any learner is the language(s) through which he learns, achieves, and explores his acquired knowledge and skills in the world.

Philosophy

Language is the key learning vessel and medium of inquiry in all aspects of intellectual, social, and emotional development. In our increasingly interdependent world, acquisition of knowledge and skills in more than one language is of growing importance. G-Star School of the Arts' Baccalaureate Programme recognizes the increasing mobility of the world population; therefore, IB students and teachers are lifelong learners of their mother-tongue. Language is a means by which our students become critical thinkers, risk-takers, inquirers, open-minded, principled, and reflective 21st century citizens. Through authentic language learning and contextual understanding, students gain an appreciation of other cultures and perspectives in order to become knowledgeable and caring global citizens. Thus, it is imperative that all teachers, parents, students, and stakeholders are language teachers and are essential contributors to the learning process.

Working Language

The working language (the language in which all services and materials are provided) at G-Star School of the Arts is English.

Access Languages

The access languages (the languages in which selected materials are provided) at G-Star School of the Arts are Spanish, Portuguese, and French-Creole.

Instructional Languages

The language of instruction at G-Star School of the Arts is English. All subject areas, except our Group 2/World Languages, are instructed in English.

World Languages

- G-Star School of the Arts offers two world language classes on-site to students in the IB Diploma Programme. All students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme are required to engage in the instruction of languages.
- The on-site World Language offerings are as follows: Spanish and French.
- Self-study World Languages are offered on an individual basis as requested.

Language Development Support

First and foremost, all teachers in G-Star School of the Arts' International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme are language teachers. Reading and writing skills are developed in each IB course through a wide variety of formative and summative assessments. While the language of instruction at G-Star is English, Palm Beach County is home to learners who speak 38 different languages in their home environments. While the majority of the population's primary language is English, other common languages are Spanish (16.1%), French-Creole (4.8%), Portuguese (.8%), and French (.8%).

Many G-Star teachers have met the State ESOL requirements and are deemed as Highly Qualified ESOL Endorsed professionals.

School Language Profile

G-Star School of the Arts Student Language Profile:

- Approximately 72% of our student body primarily speaks English in their homes.
- Approximately 23% of our student body primarily speaks Spanish in their homes.
- Approximately 3.5% of our student body primarily speaks French-Creole in their homes.
- Approximately 1.5% of our student body primarily speaks one of 15 other languages in their home, including: Bengali, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish Suomi, French, German, Hungarian, Paiute, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Vietnamese.

G-Star School of the Arts International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Profile:

- Approximately 17% of our IB Diploma Programme students primarily speak a language other than English in their homes.
- Approximately 83% of our IB Diploma Programme students primarily speak English in their homes.

Curricular, Co-curricular, and Extra Curricular Support for Students

- Continual professional development facilitation to strengthen instructional strategies used by all teachers in order to differentiate instruction for our English Language Learning students;
- Academic, curricular, and instructional support to deepen the teachers' knowledge of student engagement for English Language Learning students.

- ❖ Intensive Reading courses are provided to support struggling readers and writers. The curriculum is designed to strengthen students' English language skills to obtain mastery in challenging coursework, standardized State and District summative and formative assessments, required graduation examinations, and post-secondary studies.
- ❖ School-wide exposure to reading and writing for informational texts in all classrooms through common writing prompts and ongoing teacher professional development.
- ❖ Our Language B instructors use a variety of strategies (including but not limited to cross-curricular collaborative planning, small group instruction, peer tutoring, thinking maps, multiple intelligences) known to increase language acquisition including the incorporation of cultural competencies and understanding in the language of study, opportunities for language immersion experiences both through local language/culture programs (Spanish Heritage Month, El Dia de Los Muertos, World Cinema Club, Multicultural School Carnival) as well as travel abroad opportunities.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR OUR FAMILIES

G-Star School of the Arts uses a variety of strategies to effectively communicate with, and disseminate information to, families who speak languages other than English in their homes. Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Employing bilingual staff members who work with our students; these individuals make home contact with many of our non-English speaking families.
- Utilizing World Language teachers, Education Support Professionals, and student leaders as translators. This is particularly effective with our French-Creole and Spanish-speaking families. We pursue the expertise of the learners in our community – staff and students alike – to help us communicate with our families about upcoming school events, important academic opportunities for students, and concerns about student progress in school.
- Translation of school documents into other languages. Many of our school and district documents are translated into a variety of languages including French-Creole, Portuguese and Spanish Translation services are provided at school events including Open Houses, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Student-Led Conferences, and more.

ESOL ENDORSEMENT/CERTIFICATION/ PD REQUIREMENTS:

- A bachelor's or higher degree with certification in another subject, and
- Fifteen (15) semester hours in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) may include credit in each of the areas specified below:
 - Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL),
 - ESOL Curriculum and Materials Development,
 - Cross-Cultural Communication and Understanding,
 - Applied Linguistics, and

and Evaluation of ESOL.

Specific Authority 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1012.54, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History—New 10-10-89, Amended 10-30-90, 9-15-97, 4-21-09.

The above policy is intended to be reviewed in June 2019.

The G-Star Language Policy was created and reviewed by:

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