**Spruce Creek High School**

**IB Diploma Program Language Policy**

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**Introduction**

International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools are required to have a written language policy. This document includes provisions for second-language teaching and mother tongue language support that meet the needs of students and reflect the principles of the program. At Spruce Creek High School (SCHS), the IB Diploma Program Language Policy sets out the philosophy and aims of language teaching and learning. It reviews the currently available options in Group 1 and Group 2, the SCHS English Language Learner Program, and our support of learning mother-tongue languages.

**Philosophy**

At SCHS 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 transferrable to other languages, and language proficiency aids the student in acquiring competencies in the other curricular areas.
* 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 need of all students and work to service these needs within and outside of the classroom.
* Equity of access to IB courses is a fundamental right of all qualified students.

**Aims**

At SCHS, our language programs aim to:

* Enable students to learn and use language effectively, appropriately, accurately, and confidently.
* Develop student’s powers of oral and written communication.
* Promote the appreciation, understanding and analysis of literature.
* Encourage students to explore language as a means to understand the differing perspective of people from other cultures.
* Develop students’ awareness of the role of language in other areas of the curriculum and to other ways of knowing.
* To provide an opportunity for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of language and literature.

**IB Language Offerings**

The language of instruction at SCHS is English.

SCHS offers English A1 High Level in a two-year sequence as the only classroom opportunity for Language A. On a case-by-case basis and as need arises, SCHS will allow students the opportunity to register for English A1 Standard Level. It is not possible to create a separate course for English A1 SL students, therefore English A1 SL candidates will take part in the HL class and the teacher(s) will modify instruction and assessments to meet their needs.

SCHS offers Spanish B, French B, and German B, at the SL level and Spanish B and French B at the HL level, as classroom courses for Language B.

**English Language Learner Program**

Spruce Creek High School, as part of Volusia County Schools, has a comprehensive, state-mandated support program for English Language Learners (ELL). These policies and regulations may be found at the end of this policy document. Any teacher with an ELL student in their classroom is required to be trained on methods of differentiating and modifying instruction in support of English Language Learners. This training is provided by Volusia County Schools, the State of Florida, or various institutions of higher learning.

**Communication with Non-English-Speaking Parents and Guardians**

SCHS recognizes the value of effective and timely communications with parents and works to foster such communication. Most SCHS and Volusia County written communication with families is available in both English and Spanish, the most common language spoken by our ELL students and families. When needed SCHS staff, proficient in the families’ mother tongue, fill the role of translator between the school and parents. When such staff is not available, the Volusia County School District will provide a translator to communicate with parents. In cases where such an interpreter is not available, SCHS will seek out families in our community or other community organizations to fulfill this role.

**Mother Tongue Support**

SCHS acknowledges the importance of developing a student’s mother tongue in promoting personal identity, cultural heritage, and overall learning.

Information regarding student’s mother tongue is acquired through the state-mandate, district administered, home language survey. Students are then identified if ELL support is needed and are monitored on a yearly basis. Identified ELL students are noted on the school’s database. Teachers are required and encouraged to use this information in developing lesson plans that emphasize differentiated instruction.

With the aim of increasing cultural awareness and international-mindedness, SCHS offers a variety of school sponsored clubs to support student’s mother tongues and to honor and educate other students about their multicultural heritage. These clubs include:

* French Club
* German Club
* Spanish Honor Society
* Asian Awareness Club
* Model United Nations
* Annual Foreign Language Festival

**Language Policy Review**

This IB Diploma Language Policy will be reviewed by IB Staff, SCHS administration, and the relevant department chairs at the start of each academic year. It is the responsibility of the IB Diploma Program Coordinator to ensure the success of the Language Policy review.