



*Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School,
Westland Middle School
And Silver Creek Middle School*
Language Policy

I. Philosophy of Language Instruction

Schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) IB partnership hold the view that language development is the backbone to becoming knowledgeable learners, thinkers, and communicators. While English is the language of instruction for all courses except the language acquisition courses, it is the philosophy of the B-CC IB partnership that language acquisition and communication are essential to teaching and learning. Therefore, all teachers are teachers of language. As a global community, the teachers strive to educate students in various world languages to increase their knowledge, understanding and awareness of other cultures. Students enrolled in a world language actively engage in the target language through both written and oral communication. Language acquisition courses place a strong emphasis on authentic situations requiring the target language.

With guidance from the MYP framework, schools provide multiple opportunities for students to develop cultural understandings of their own and other cultures. Examples include units of instruction, field trips to embassies and cultural centers, exchange programs, ethnic heritage celebrations and clubs representing different ethnicities and languages.

II. School Language Profile

Our students reflect the diversity of our community, representing 65 different national backgrounds and speaking 54 different languages at home.

Approximately 6% of our students are enrolled as English Language Learners receiving direct instructional support in English language.

III. English Language Learners

Schools in the IB partnership offer both English and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses at each grade level. Potential ESOL students take oral and written language assessments to determine their placement in ESOL classes. When ESOL students demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, they transition from supported ESOL classes into mainstreamed classes. In addition, each ESOL student has an English Language Learner (ELL) Accommodation Plan to help them succeed in their classes. The ELL Accommodation Plan also is available for staff to use for these students in their classes.

Teachers of ESOL classes conduct the course in English to aid English language

learners in acquiring the social and academic English needed to attain high academic achievement in all content areas. ESOL-certified teachers teach the ESOL classes.

Teachers in the B-CC IB partnership receive ongoing professional learning to develop instructional strategies to use in assisting students in their acquisition of primary and secondary languages.

IV. Language Acquisition

Proficiency in a world language, along with an understanding of other cultures, will help students become active participants in an increasingly diverse and globalized community. All students are encouraged to take a **Language Acquisition** course starting from the first year of the programme and continuing throughout the programme. Westland and Silver Creek Middle Schools offer the language acquisition choices of Chinese, French, or Spanish. B-CC High School offers language acquisition courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Spanish for Spanish Speakers. Students who are native Spanish speakers may take a Spanish course designed to enhance their reading and writing skills in the target language. All language courses are taught 90% or higher in the target language in order to build listening and speaking fluency.

V. Procedures for the publication and review of this policy

This policy was last reviewed and revised in spring 2017 by the Language Policy Committee. The committee consists of the department heads from English and ESOL departments, the Staff Development Teacher, the IB MYP Coordinator, and the Assistant Principal who supervises IB implementation. The policy is reviewed annually for inclusion in the student handbook.

VI. Resources

- School sponsored clubs and language honor societies provide opportunities to support students in their mother-tongue.
- Language Assistance Services
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/lasu/index.aspx>