



## DeLand High School

### IB Diploma Program Language Policy

#### **Introduction**

DeLand High School offers a challenging program of academic study designed to prepare all students for success beyond high school that includes the study of World Languages as well as

#### **Language Profile**

Most students at DeLand High School speak English; however, other languages spoken include Arabic, Mandarin, Tagalog, Spanish, German, French, Arabic, Hindi and Thai. There are approximately 158 students in our English Language Learners (ELL) program.

#### **Philosophy**

We believe that:

- All teachers are language teachers.
- Language forms the basis of all communication and learning.
- Skills acquire in one language can be transferred to other languages.
- Proficiency in language helps students to acquire competencies in other academic areas.
- Language is an expression of one's traditions and culture and constitutes an essential part of a student's identity.
- Linguistic skills foster international mindedness by viewing allowing students to view the world through multicultural perspectives.

#### **Aims**

The DeLand High School language program endeavors:

- to support students in their learning and effective, appropriate, accurate and confident use of language
- to develop the students' power of oral and written communication,
- to help students use language in a variety of contexts and for a variety of purposes.
- to develop in our students an understanding and appreciation of literature.
- to encourage students to explore language as a means of understanding differing perspectives and cultures.
- to encourage students to explore the role of language in other areas of the curriculum and in the other ways of knowing.
- to provide opportunities for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of language and literature.





## DeLand High School

### **IB Language Offerings**

The language of instruction at DHS is English.

We offer English A1 Higher Level in two-year sequence and it is the only classroom opportunity for Language A. We also offer Spanish B HL and SL. We offer French B and German B at SL only.

### **English Language Learner Program**

DeLand High School has a comprehensive, state-mandated support program for English Language Learners (ELL). Any teacher with an ELL student is required to be trained on methods of differentiating and modifying instruction to support the language learner. This training is provided by Volusia County Schools, the State of Florida or various post-secondary institutions.

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

DeLand High School and Volusia County provides written communication with families in both English and Spanish. When needed translation services are available on campus via faculty and staff who are proficient in the language of the family. When no staff is available the Volusia County School district will provide a translator between school and parents.

### **Mother Tongue Support**

We recognize 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-mandated, district administered, home language survey. Students are then identified if ELL support is needed and are monitored on a yearly basis.

With the aim of increasing cultural awareness and international mindedness, DeLand High School offers a variety of school sponsored clubs to support and celebrate student's mother tongue. These clubs include:

- French club
- Spanish club
- German club
- Asian Student Association
- Model United Nations
- Annual Foreign Language Festival





## DeLand High School

### **Language Policy Review**

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

### **Supporting Documents**

The Florida Decree re: ELL students

<http://myvolusiaschools.org/esol/Documents/Florida%20Consent%20Decree.pdf>

