

# Beaumont School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Policy

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## **Beaumont School Language Philosophy**

Beaumont School believes that communication serves a central role in the students' education. All teachers will model proper and effective use of language. We recognize that the development of students' ability to communicate is a responsibility of teachers in every discipline. We require students to demonstrate competency in a second language and culture. This promotes the development of an appreciation of our own society as well as a world view that is fundamental to an IB education.

## **Language of Instruction**

The language of instruction at Beaumont School is English. In accordance with state standards, all students are required to complete four years of English. During this time, students learn grammar/usage, composition, literature, research and citation skills, and media literacy. The 80-minute block allows for extended study of language and is supplemented by a summer reading assignment.

Language study is reinforced across all disciplines through class discussions, essays, research projects, individual and group presentations, and personal reflections. A special emphasis is placed on critically reading primary documents and reading complex texts.

## **Second Language Instruction**

All Beaumont School students are required to earn 3 credits in the same world language: French, Latin, or Spanish. The mission of world language education at Beaumont School is for each student to develop functional proficiency in a second language and culture. This mission is supported by the following goals of the program.

- Students will develop a well-rounded synthesis of content, skills (analysis, application, synthesis,) and the learning strategies (focusing, organizing, summarizing) necessary for creative problem solving and quality decision making.
- Students will work together in cooperative groups in an interactive setting, thus building the sense of community (the love of neighbor) necessary for active social participation in family, school, parish, political systems, church, city, and beyond.
- Students will develop competency in the whole language skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening, and body language) necessary to function effectively within a wide range of real life contexts.

- Students will interact within our global society by contacting members of the target culture in our community and by using technology to communicate in the target language with native speakers around the world.
- Motivated by a love of language and culture, students will become life-long learners unhindered by the constraints of geographical, cultural, historical, or language barriers.
- Students will enhance their understanding of the target culture and language by making cultural and linguistic comparisons to their own culture and the English language.
- Students will make interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary connections, developing a greater understanding and appreciation of other disciplines, by using both cultural information learned in class and authentic language sources (first-hand accounts, original source materials, texts, and documents), some of which may be unavailable to monolingual English speakers.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of world cultures, develop an appreciation of cultural diversity at home and abroad, and expand awareness of their own language and culture.

### **English Second Language Learners**

Students who need help with their English skills are able to seek tutoring during our during-the-school-day zero block designed for student support or after school with an English teacher, or possibly during an ILT. The student's guidance counselor will work with teachers, one of whom to ensure the necessary accommodations are made.

### **Co-curricular Language Support**

Beaumont School supports language development through a number of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Publications such as our yearbook and organizations like Lit Mag provide students with leadership and literary opportunities that extend learning beyond the classroom. Each of our world languages has a club that offers opportunities for further engagement with the language and culture. Our students compete in national language competitions that help us gauge students' linguistic skills. Travel opportunities abroad are regularly available.

### **Policy Distribution and Review**

This policy was developed by the Beaumont School IB Team and updated by the Team on April 26, 2021. This policy will be reviewed and revised annually by the IB Team. All Beaumont IB Policies will be communicated in the Beaumont IB Student Handbook and posted on the school's website.