

# **Hutchinson High School IB Language Policy**

## **Introduction**

International Baccalaureate (IB) World schools are required to create a written Language Policy. The purpose of this document is to inform about teaching and learning in the classroom, to guide curriculum and to involve families in our goal to educate children in an internationally-minded environment. This document outlines the philosophy and practice of language instruction at Hutchinson High School and demonstrates how our school supports students' acquisition of our language of instruction (English), and our World Language (Spanish). It also shows how Hutchinson High School supports continued use of a student's mother tongue (the language spoken at home).

## **Philosophy:**

All teachers are language teachers.

- Language is a primary means of learning and communicating.
- Language acquisition is to be promoted as a partnership between all members of our community including parents, students, teachers and staff.
- Mother tongue languages help form cultural and personal identity and will be respected.
- The shared experience of learning language creates cohesion among students from diverse backgrounds and promotes international-mindedness.
- Learning world languages is an integral part of becoming a global citizen.

## **Language Profile:**

In the 2015-2016 school year, HHS had a population of approximately 1500 students. At the beginning of the school year, 78 students had a Mother Tongue other than English; by the end of the year, the enrollment of these students was 71, due to families moving, students dropping out or exiting the program. The language spoken by these students at school is Spanish.

## **Aims:**

All Hutchinson High School teachers, staff, parents and students work to:

- Enable students to learn and use language confidently in a variety of contexts.
- Increase students' powers of written and oral communication through subjective and formative assessments.
- Promote student understanding and enjoyment of literature.
- Allow students to explore different perspectives through language.
- Encourage students to have fun and express themselves through language.

## **Support of Mother Tongue Languages**

- The school has access in the building to translators in Spanish.
- Parent information forms are translated in-house into Spanish, our most common Mother Tongue aside from English.
- The library includes materials that support continued use of the mother tongue.

Hutchinson High School has 23 ESL certified staff to further help these student approximately 20 percent of our teaching staff.

## **Support of the Language of Instruction**

English is the Language of Instruction at Hutchinson High School.

Hutchinson High School will support students with Limited English Proficiency in language acquisition in the following ways:

- Daily pull-out small group instruction with a Highly Qualified English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher or ESL para.
- Yearly assessment beginning in Kindergarten using the Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment (KELPA) to monitor language development progress.

- Sheltered Instruction in all classes to scaffold acquisition of vocabulary and concepts central to learning by providing visual cues, collaborative learning experiences and consistent assessment of prior knowledge.

Hutchinson High School will support all students in language acquisition in the following ways:

- Implementing reading and writing strategies across the curriculum.
- Providing multiple opportunities at all levels of instruction for students to write in a variety of genres.
- Allowing students ample choice in their reading materials and encouraging reading for enjoyment.
- Providing differentiated instruction for students with special needs, including students with learning disabilities and students who are academically talented and gifted (TAG).
- Assessing students formally and informally in the classroom using check-ins, writing prompts, reading comprehension checks, reading skills assessments, speeches, and essays.
- Participating in the Kansas State Assessment for Reading each year.

### **Support of Hutchinson High School's Adopted Second Language**

Hutchinson High's chosen second language is Spanish.

### **Ongoing Review of the Language Policy**

This policy will be formally reviewed yearly by Hutchinson High School staff, parents and community members, including former IB graduates, and revised as needed to adapt to changing best practices and the needs of our learning community.

This policy is available to all stakeholders in the Hutchinson High School learning community, and the school leadership welcomes comments and recommendations at any time.