

# **Brockton High School International Diploma Programme Language Policy**

*This language policy provides guidance for all members of the BHS IB Diploma Programme.*

## **Brockton High School Mission Statement**

Brockton High School (BHS) seeks to teach our students in a safe, supportive environment the knowledge, skills, values, and behaviors necessary to become responsible and productive members of a diverse society. Instruction focuses on enabling students to demonstrate the literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, and reasoning, and preparing them to participate actively as citizens in a technologically advanced society.

BHS remains a comprehensive high school while establishing smaller learning communities. We meet the individual needs of our students by providing opportunities for them to fulfill their potential and by offering choices in accordance with their own aspirations. We are committed to enhancing intellectual and emotional connections among adults and students through a personalized approach in both instruction and interpersonal relationships. Our school encourages and fosters positive, working relationships with students, families, and the community. (BHS Student/Parent Handbook, 2014-2015)

## **Overview**

Brockton High School is an urban school located in Brockton, Massachusetts. It is a diverse school with a student population consisting of approximately 4300 students; there are over 40 languages spoken among the student body of whom about 25% are from other countries. As a school community we are committed to ensuring our students' language needs are supported regardless of fluency in English. Our language of instruction is in English. We offer IB (and non IB) courses in Literature, Mandarin Chinese, Latin and Spanish.

Brockton High School's literacy policy demands high learning expectations across all curricula and subjects. These are communicated through the Literacy Objective charts and the Brockton High School mission statement revolving around the Core Values of rigor, relevance and relationships. These core values connect to the IB learner profile.

## **Diploma Programme Language Offerings**

Brockton High School offers English HL Literature to all students who reach for excellence and who desire a more rigorous course of study in both literature and composition. This course is offered to all students regardless of language background. Until an IB English SL class is adopted, students are offered non-IB English Literature classes.

In addition the Group 2 language options include SL Mandarin Chinese, SL Latin and SL Spanish which provide our students with the opportunity to study a foreign language. Although some native Spanish speakers come to SL Spanish with some proficiency, most students are novices to these language choices.

### **Role of the Teacher**

All teachers at Brockton High School communicate literacy skills which include reading, writing, reasoning and speaking through their content. Resources at the school, including library use and research techniques through all forms of media are supported by the literacy objectives and therefore used by all teachers. The entire faculty is committed to providing rigorous lessons that relate to the wider world.

Teachers expect students to apply themselves to their content at the highest levels at all times. Most instructors are required to be knowledgeable in Sheltered English Instruction so ELLs are taught in an equitable manner. School wide communication is done through English, but translations are available for students and their parents on a need basis. All students regardless of their mother tongue are welcomed to participate in any IB course.

Instructions in language usage is contained within the course outlines. Foreign Language study integrates the study of languages with the study of the cultures in which the languages are used and also connects with all other disciplines, including TOK. By focusing on the five Foreign Languages content strands of Communication, Culture, Comparisons, Connections and Communities, students learn to communicate in a new language and use it to gain understanding of people and cultures. In addition, students learn to use the language to acquire knowledge in other disciplines, and to participate in local and international communities.

Teachers are committed to making sure the language policy is updated so it serves the needs of the student body. After being drafted in 2015, the policy will be reviewed and revised annually using the IB Guidelines for School Self-Reflection on Language Policy. Teachers are actively involved in steering committees where the language policies are reviewed and revised regularly.

### **Community Input**

Our community, which includes, but is not limited to: parents, guardians, administrators, and community stakeholders, plays a crucial role in advising our student body. The students with the help of guardians, and the support of community members, have the right to choose the language option which best suits their needs. There are opportunities for community stakeholders to meet with teachers to inquire about the IB programme and policies during open house, parent-teacher meetings, and special school council meetings that address the IB programme.

## **Communicating the Language Policy**

The language policy is to be posted on the Brockton High School website and shall be available upon request through the guidance and department chairs.

## **Review of Language Policy**

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the Brockton High School IB Diploma Programme faculty and Coordinator, who will use the *Guidelines for School Self-reflection On Its Language Policy* along with dialogue to review any relevant evidence and then make adjustments in response to any needs or changes in requirements. These changes will then be ratified by the teachers, coordinator, and administration. Finally, the policy will be made public through the school's website.