



Language Policy Document

The Diploma Program is delivered in English at Shawnee Mission East High School.

Students are able to choose from three group 2 languages B: Spanish, French or Latin. All IB diploma candidates in the school are required to take one of these languages at either the HL or SL level. All IB diploma students take English A: literature at HL.

As our middle schools teach first year Spanish and French, some students are able to begin study of second language earlier and this allows them greater choice of level they will take of their language B option. Most students take a language B course both their first and second year of the IB DP program. A few students choose to SL test their first year and this opens up other courses for them to explore their second year of the DP program.

Our program has welcomed and continues to welcome non-native English speakers. In collaboration with our school's ELL (English Language Learner) teachers, interested students are identified, along with specific language obstacles they may face in completing the program. When necessary, students in the IB program receive ongoing support for their development of English language skills from our ELL teachers. While requiring English A1 as an HL subject can be daunting, we have had a number of non-native English speakers complete the Diploma program.

There is no direct support for the development of all mother tongues spoken in our school. Students whose mother tongue is taught as a second language are often able to serve as teacher aide/native speakers in our language classes. Students whose mother tongue is Spanish or French may pursue the study of these languages as part of their diploma program or they may elect to take an additional, non-native language.

To date, we have not provided students with school-supported self-taught languages in group 1. However, we have not had any students or parents request this option to date and it is unlikely that we will have such requests in our particular educational context.

The school offers translators for Spanish to facilitate communication between teachers and parents.