

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME LANGUAGE POLICY



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RCSD IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME LANGUAGE POLICY

Section I: Philosophy

The mission of the Rye City School District, in partnership with the community, is to ensure that every student is capable of becoming a life-long learner who can thrive in a global environment as a self-reliant and socially responsible citizen. To realize this mission, our schools will provide an engaging, challenging, personalized program that supports each individual's talents and potential, in a fiscally responsible manner.¹

The Board of Education of the Rye City School District understands that a world class education requires hard work and dedication from everyone in the community. We take our responsibility of overseeing the education of our children in an equitable, inclusive environment very seriously. Therefore, the Board of Education has developed the Rye Commitment - assurances to students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community that we will support the important work of our schools.²

Section II: Course Offerings

English Department

Beliefs and Practices:

The English Department facilitates engaging, relevant, and challenging learning experiences to empower students to set and reach their educational goals. Critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are integrated into weekly lessons. Teachers guide students in developing rich and diverse reading lives. Students grapple with complex texts to reach their own authentic interpretations and then substantiate their unique claims with evidence and reasoning. Teachers encourage collaboration during lesson activities to nurture academic and social development and to promote engagement.

Students write extensively, build skills by approaching writing as a process, and collaborate with peers and faculty to revise and edit their work. In addition to their core English course, ninth-grade students take a semester-long composition course; this course involves an

¹ Rye City School District. "About Our District." *Rye City School District*, <https://www.ryeschools.org/about-us/about-our-district>. Accessed 30 December 2023.

² Rye City School District. "The Rye Commitment." *Rye City School District*, <https://www.ryeschools.org/about-us/the-rye-commitment>. Accessed 30 December 2023.

intense study of grammar and exposure to key modes of writing required throughout high school. Teachers differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual students throughout the four-year sequence of study.

Reading and writing experiences provide the basis for communicating ideas, forging connections between individuals, building compassion, and understanding universal themes. The English Department strives to encourage students to develop an appreciation of learning and literature.

Course Offering

IB Language A: Language and Literature (HL)

The Language A: Language and Literature (HL) course in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program focuses on the study of language through a literary lens. Students analyze a range of texts, including literary and non-literary works, to explore how language shapes meaning and reflects cultural contexts. They develop critical thinking and communication skills through close reading, literary analysis, and written and oral presentations. The course aims to deepen students' understanding of language and literature while fostering appreciation for diverse perspectives and cultural identities.

World Language Department

Beliefs and Practices:

One important asset provided by a well-rounded education is the ability to communicate in more than one language. American Sign Language, French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish are offered in grades 9–12. In accordance with the New York State World Language and ACTFL World Readiness standards, the World Language Department strives to develop caring and communicative global citizens. World Language courses prepare students to be successful in a variety of contexts and for multiple purposes in school and in local and global communities. Our courses meet the requirements for a Regents diploma and for admission to a four-year college or university.

Each World Language course focuses on student proficiency objectives, specifically, proficiency targets. To become proficient in the language, students must practice reading, writing, listening and speaking (speaking= signing for ASL) with a predominant focus on speaking. Through benchmarks and progress indicators, students are able to identify their levels of language proficiency. Benchmarks are specific statements of what students should

know and be able to do communicatively. Communication focuses on interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes.

Course Offerings

IB ab initio: Spanish (SL)

IB ab initio Spanish is an introductory course designed for students with little or no previous experience in Spanish. This course focuses on the basic language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. There is an emphasis on everyday communication and practical language use.

IB Language B: Spanish and French (HL)

Language B Spanish and French are courses designed for students who have some previous experience in French or Spanish. These courses will allow students to develop their language proficiencies further. Courses will emphasize language acquisition, cultural understanding, and communication skills at a higher level, including literature and media analysis.

IB Classical Language: Latin (HL)

The Classical Language Latin course explores the language, literature, and culture of ancient Rome by studying Latin. Students engage with classical texts and develop language proficiency in reading, translating, and interpreting Latin. Students will also gain insight into the historical and cultural context of the ancient world.

Section III: The English as a New Language Program

Student Support includes a collective group of RCSD staff members and teachers who may offer specialized support to students throughout the school day. Specialized support may include individualized instruction, one-on-one services, counseling, and guidance to the students. Varying kinds of support may be needed for students to achieve academic, social, and emotional success.

The English as a New Language (ENL) Program is offered to students in grades K-12 to support English Language Learners (ELLs) in learning English. Classes are available to students from entering level (beginning), through the advanced level. ENL classes are designed to help ELLs develop and strengthen their English Language proficiency, per the NY State Common Core Learning Standards. As required by NY State, a student's eligibility is

determined by the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL), an incoming screening test. Once students are in the ENL Program their English proficiency is measured annually by the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), and supported through an additional two years after achieving English proficiency.³

Section IV: Mother Tongue Support

Teachers are trained to recognize the importance of the maintenance of the primary language in the development of a secondary language. Families are encouraged to continue using the primary language at home and to enhance literacy skills in the primary language to the fullest extent.

The District also continues to provide translation of documents and interpreters for in-person meetings whenever needed. Using Language Line (the name of the company) and our district communications are sent in the native language that families have requested.

³ Rye City School District. "Student Support." *Rye City School District*, <https://rhs.ryeschools.org/departments/student-support>. Accessed 3 January 2024.