



Our language community involves all students, teachers, parents, administrators and others who interact here. English and French are the official languages of our country, Canada. While English is the language of communication and most of the instruction in our school community, all languages are valued. Learning and respecting first languages validates personal identity and self-esteem and promotes cognitive ability and academic success. Exposure to and learning of additional languages enhances our understanding of people and cultures, fosters international-mindedness and helps learners better understand their own languages.

Glossary of Terms:

- Language A: In the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, Language A refers to the study of a student's first language, focusing on critical analysis of literary and non-literary texts
- Language B: An International Baccalaureate language acquisition course. The IB Language B course is for students with some prior experience in a language, aiming to improve their communication skills through themes like identities, experiences, and social organization.
- Ab initio: Ab initio is a beginner level language acquisition course designed for students who are new to the language. It's a Standard Level (SL) course offered as part of the IB Diploma Program.

Roles and Responsibilities:

At Meadowridge School, we believe that language permeates all curricular areas and everyone is a teacher of language. To support the language development of our students, Meadowridge faculty:

- Integrate language learning into all curricular areas.
- Use and develop language skills in all components of the IB programmes.
- Develop oral language (speaking and listening) abilities, writing and representing abilities and reading and viewing abilities, as outlined in the locally developed JK programme, British Columbia's Ministry of Education, and IB's documentation.
- Use a variety of literary forms and genres to develop literacy skills in Language and Literature classes and within the PYP Units of Inquiry.
- Provide Language B learning in French and/or Spanish for all learners/students to encourage multilingualism, create interest in language diversity, allowing students opportunities on a global scale.
- Develop literacy skills in sign and symbol systems in all curricular areas, including math, science, music, and art classes.
- Utilize all learning spaces, including the Library-Resource Centre and outdoor spaces to enhance language learning.
- Support all learners, including those who have challenges, in their acquisition and development of

- English language skills and abilities.
- Value language diversity, especially the first languages and heritage languages of Meadowridge learners.
- Promote multicultural understanding so that students develop an understanding of themselves and others around them and by doing so develop an understanding and appreciation of society in general.

Programme Application:

At Meadowridge School, we believe language:

- is fundamental to all learning
- learning occurs in context, in structured ways and in informal settings
- facilitates knowledge acquisition, construction of meaning and communication through reading and viewing, writing and representing, oral and non-verbal communication
- learning is developmental, requires differentiated instruction and a variety of resources
- is best learned through a variety of pedagogical approaches
- learners bring unique cultural perspectives and experiences to the language-learning environment

First Language Support

Meadowridge School is an open-minded, inclusive and respectful learning community that celebrates culture and linguistic diversity. We value and acknowledge the importance of a students' first language to promote development of personal identity, cultural heritage, academic and cognitive domains and social and emotional growth. We understand that first languages connect individuals to their families and, if supported, these first languages help families better connect to the school community. Meadowridge is an English-medium school. So, while the language of instruction is English, we also support the inclusion of first languages in developmentally-appropriate ways in our curricular programmes, co-curricular activities, clubs, community events and resources. In DP exams, students are allowed to use a translation dictionary in their group 3 through 6 courses.

Language B Acquisition

The school program provides an appropriate balance and level of critical thinking including the following components of learning: factual mastery, skill development, inquiry, creativity, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

The Meadowridge School Language B Department is striving to provide a balanced, interdisciplinary approach to the study of IB Language B from JK-12 (French) and 6-12 (Spanish). By using the provincially mandated Learning Outcomes for French and Spanish as well as IB philosophy we use a variety of traditional methods of instruction (lectures, board notes, etc.) with interactive methods (games, group activities, role playing, etc.).

IB DP Language Offerings

Meadowridge offers Language and Literature Higher Level and Standard Level for Language A. Higher Level and Standard Level courses will be taught in separate sections. In the event that they are taught together, the teacher will modify instruction and assessments to meet the needs of all students.

Language B courses (French and Spanish) are offered at Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL). In addition, Spanish is currently offered at an Ab Initio Standard Level (SL) to meet the needs of our learners of a new language.

Meadowridge also allows students to take a bilingual IB Diploma by completing an additional Language A course. The student would complete this School Supported Self-Taught (SL) course/ISABC Blended Learning (HL/SL) course in lieu of their Language B course.

Faculty Review:

Reviewed By	Date
Admin Team	October 30th, 2025
Faculty	November 2024
IB Coordinators	October 2025

This Policy is to be understood in conjunction with all other policies of Meadowridge School and does not take precedence. It informs the contractual agreements between families and the school.

Meadowridge School will review the Language Policy annually to ensure it is current and meeting the needs of students.