



# Miramar High School International Baccalaureate Program Language Policy

Miramar High School recognizes the importance of language in instruction, and is publishing the school language policy under the guidelines of the IB publication “Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy”.

## Philosophy

Miramar High School is committed to teaching language across the curriculum. The language of instruction is English, and teachers in each of the subjects, with the exception of Language B, are responsible for developing the student’s language skills. Additionally, Miramar students have the choice of learning French or Spanish as a second language. Language acquisition is essential in an increasingly global world, and Miramar High School students are expected to study a language B subject area for all four years of high school study. Students graduating from Miramar will have college level reading and writing skills, and have a workable knowledge of their language B choice.

## Instructional Language

English is the primary language of instruction, and is the language taught in all subject areas with the exception of Language B. In order to qualify for the IB program, the students must achieve an appropriate score on their end of the year assessment tests in reading and mathematics. All classroom teachers are responsible for teaching the language including the Language A, the social sciences, the sciences and mathematics. Research, writing, analysis and interpretation of literature, historical events, technical and scientific data and testing is done in English.

## Language Acquisition

In an increasing global environment, language acquisition can be a valuable skill. South Florida has a large immigrant population, and the language of Spanish and French can be heard, often as the primary language, in many neighborhoods. The ability to speak more than one language is an essential skill in the South Florida community.

Students entering Miramar High School in 9<sup>th</sup> grade have a choice of Spanish or French as their language of study. Once they have completed a year studying that language, they are required to continue in that language for the next three years until their graduation. Many students enter Miramar High School have already earned high school credit in a language, and in that case, they will begin at the appropriate language level. Students reaching level 4 will test in Spanish SL, while students in level 5 or 6 have the option of testing in SL or HL. Students with no previous language experience entering in 10<sup>th</sup> grade must take Spanish or French 1, and they will eventually arrive at level 3 of the language and thus will test in Ab Initio.

## English Language Learners (ELL)

In 1990, the state of Florida in negotiations with organizations representing students with limited English proficiency enacted the META consent decree which requires all classroom teachers to complete a course in teaching students with limited English proficiency. Because Broward County has a large immigrant population, the Miramar High School IB program does not restrict students interesting in studying in IB, and offers them support both inside the classroom through the teacher's training, and outside the classroom where cultures and languages are celebrated through presentation and club activities. Students are expected to celebrate their native language and share their language and culture with fellow students.