

LANGUAGE POLICY
VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL (IB WORLD SCHOOL 1433)

PHILOSOPHY

The teachers at Valencia recognize that language is central to learning. It is through language that students acquire knowledge, learn to think critically, and develop an understanding of themselves and others. Ultimately, all teachers are vital to the language learning process. Accordingly, students will have opportunities to read and write across the curriculum. In all disciplines, students will receive balanced instruction which includes the application of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will be encouraged to develop strategies to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate language, both orally and in the written form.

At Valencia, English is the language of instruction and it is the goal that all students will graduate fluent in English. We nevertheless recognize the importance of learning at least one other language. We also believe that steps should be taken to maintain and develop the mother tongue of students whose first language is not English. Learning another language helps students to appreciate and better understand the concept of internationalism and to value other cultures and points of view. Maintenance of the mother tongue reinforces cultural identity.

LANGUAGE PROFILE

While a majority of students who matriculate to Valencia come from households where English is the only language spoken, there are three other distinct language groups.

The first group of students comes from a household where one or both parents are bilingual and have spoken both their native language and English at home. These students have always been in English-only courses and are fluent in English. They may or may not be fluent in their native language.

The second group of students comes from a household where both parents speak only their native language at home. These students, however, have learned English through the district English Language Development (ELD) program. As such, these students were placed into English-only classes long before high school and are fluent in English. They are more than likely fluent in their native language as well.

The third group of students comes from a household where both parents speak only the native language at home. These students are not fluent in English and are currently in the ELD program at Valencia High School.

While over 23 languages are represented on Valencia's campus, the primary non-English language spoken by students and parents is Spanish.

ACQUISITION OF ENGLISH

Valencia has the most extensive English Language Development (ELD) program of any of the high schools in the district. This program helps students acquire English as quickly as possible. Depending on their English proficiency, students will be placed in anywhere from one to three ELD courses. As they master the language, they may be placed in some sheltered courses. These courses serve as a transition to English-only, college preparatory courses. All teachers within the school have CLAD (Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development) credentials and all teachers within the ELD program are trained to use differentiated instruction and SADIE (Specifically-Designed Academic Instruction in English) strategies.

GROUP 1 COURSE OF STUDY: ENGLISH A1 HIGHER LEVEL

9th Grade: Honors Language Arts 1

10th Grade: Honors Language Arts 2

11th Grade: English A1 HL (Year 1)

12th Grade: English A1 HL (Year 2)

ACQUISITION OF A SECOND LANGUAGE

Group 2 Languages Offered at Valencia High School

Mandarin B SL

French B SL

Japanese B SL & HL

Spanish B SL & HL

Group 2 Course of Study (SL)

Option 1

9th Grade: Foreign Language (2nd year of study)

10th Grade: Foreign Language (3rd year of study)

11th Grade: Language B SL

Option 2

9th Grade: Foreign Language (1st year of study)

10th Grade: Foreign Language (2nd year of study)

11th Grade: Foreign Language (3rd year of study)

12th Grade: Language B SL

*Students may also take the AP Language test upon completion of the Language B SL course of study.

Group 2 Course of Study (HL)

9th Grade: Foreign Language (2nd year of study)

10th Grade: Foreign Language (3rd year of study)

11th Grade: Language B HL (Year 1)

12th Grade: Language B HL (Year 2)

*Students may also take the AP Language test upon completion of the 1st year of the Language B HL course.

DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MOTHER-TONGUE

The teachers at Valencia High School recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity represented on our campus. We acknowledge the importance of supporting the development and maintenance of the mother tongue when that language is not English. To that end, we promote the mother tongue of students in the following ways:

- 1) Special care is taken in ELD classes to recognize and reinforce the importance of the mother tongue and culture as students make the transition to English-only classes.
- 2) Students are strongly encouraged to join and participate in the numerous clubs on campus (e.g. Japanese, Chinese, French, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, etc.) where non-English languages are spoken during meetings and activities.
- 3) Correspondence between the school and parents must be in the mother tongue when that language is spoken by at least 10% of the student population. We also provide on-site translators for these languages. For non-English languages spoken by less than 10% of the students, we will attempt to provide translations when requested and have an on-site translator when possible.
- 4) Students whose first language is Spanish may take Spanish for Native Speakers for the first three years of study. Since these students are fluent in Spanish, the primary focus of these courses is reading and writing in their native language.
- 5) In the IB program students may satisfy the Language A (Group 1) or Language B (Group 2) requirement by taking a self-taught Language A1 SL course in their mother tongue. To date, we have had students take self-taught courses in Hindi and Korean.

LANGUAGE AND ADMISSION TO THE IB PROGRAM AT VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL

Students of all linguistic backgrounds are considered for admission. While proficiency in English is expected upon entering the program during the junior year, every effort will be made to allow students who recently finished the ELD program to earn the IB Diploma. This may include, but is not limited to, taking a self-taught Language A1 SL course in the mother tongue to satisfy Group 1 or Group 2. Students will, however, still be required to complete four years of English as required by the State of California. Also, all subjects (other than foreign language) are taught in English.