

Ozark High School – IB Language Policy

Introduction

Authorized in 2011, the Ozark High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme offers a rich academic program of study aligned with our school's mission statement as well as the mission statement of the International Baccalaureate Organization. Central to the education of any learner is the language(s) through which they learn, achieve, and explore their acquired knowledge and skills in the world.

Philosophy

Language is the key learning vessel and medium of inquiry in all aspects of intellectual, social, and emotional development. In our increasingly interdependent world, acquisition of knowledge and skills in more than one language is of growing importance. Ozark High School's International Baccalaureate Programme recognizes the increasing mobility of the world population; therefore, IB students and teachers are life-long learners of their mother-tongue. Language is a means by which our students become critical thinkers, risk-takers, inquirers, open-minded, principled, and reflective 21st century citizens. Language learning refers not only to the acquisition of another language, but also to the understanding of a different culture, and reinforces international-mindedness and cultural identity. Through authentic language learning and contextual understanding, students gain an appreciation of other cultures and perspectives in order to become knowledgeable and caring global citizens. It is Ozark High School's goal for students to have the opportunity to engage in realistic and meaningful language learning experiences within a positive and encouraging environment. Thus, it is imperative that all teachers, parents, students, and stakeholders are language teachers and are essential contributors to the learning process.

Working Language at Ozark High School

The working language (the language in which all services and materials are provided) at Ozark High School is English.

Instructional Language at Ozark High School

The language of instruction at Ozark High School is English. All subject areas, except our Group 2 Language Acquisition Courses are instructed in English.

World Languages (Language B) Offered at Ozark High School

Ozark High School offers two world language classes on-site to students in the IB Diploma Programme. All students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme are required to engage in the instruction of languages. The Language Acquisition offerings are: French B SL and Spanish B SL. Ozark High School will be offering Ab Initio for the first time during the 2019-2020 school year after the Language B teachers are trained in this. Ozark High School will also allow students the opportunity to learn a language outside of French or Spanish if requested from the IB Coordinator and IB Counselor with a plan on how to complete the course.

Language Development Support at Ozark High School

First and foremost, all teachers in the Ozark High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme are language teachers. Reading and writing skills are developed in each IB course through a wide variety of formative and summative assessments. While the language of instruction at Ozark High School is English, Ozark is home to learners who speak many different languages in their home environments. The most common throughout the district are Russian (3%) and Spanish (1%).

At Ozark High School approximately 1% of the student population qualifies as English Language Learners (ELL), and these ELL students are assigned to an ELL teacher that works with them on their individual language needs.

Language Profile at Ozark High School

The Ozark High School Student Language Profile:

- Approximately 98% of our student body primarily speaks English in their homes.
- Approximately 1% of our student body primarily speaks Russian in their homes.
- Approximately .8% of our student body primarily speaks Spanish in their homes.
- Approximately .2% of our student body combined primarily speak the following languages in their homes:
 - Chinese
 - Creoles and Pidgins, English Based
 - Iloko
 - Panjabi; Punjabi
 - Romanian
 - Ukrainian

Other languages spoken in homes throughout the district in grades K-9 are:

- Afrikaans
- Arabic
- Persian
- Filipino; Pilipino
- German
- Korean
- Philippine (Other)
- Portuguese
- Romany
- Sotho, Southern
- Swahili
- Tagalog
- Thai
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese

Curricular, Co-Curricular, and Extra-Curricular Support for Students

Ozark High School offers English as a Second Language support for students who qualify for these services. These services aide students with a wide range of English language skills and help build the students' cognitive academic language proficiency for greater success in mainstream academic courses.

- ELL/LEP instructors consistently support English language development, from a variety of perspectives, including but not limited to:
 - Standard and/or skill-based formative assessments to provide evidence in student course placement;
 - Continual professional development facilitation to strengthen instructional strategies used by all teachers in order to differentiate instruction for our English Language Learning students;
 - Academic, curricular, and instructional support to deepen the teachers' knowledge of student engagement for English Language Learning students.
- Identified students may have language goals included in an Individual Education Plan. Teachers provide accommodations that best support the student to achieve the goal(s).
- Our Language B instructors uses a variety of strategies (to include but not limited to cross-curricular collaborative planning, small group instruction, individual tutoring, Multiple Intelligences) known to increase language acquisition including the incorporation of cultural competencies and understanding in the language of study. These instructors have also lead travel-abroad options for students in French and Spanish speaking countries.

Language Support for our Families

Ozark High School uses a variety of strategies to effectively communicate with, and disseminate information to, families who speak languages other than English in their homes. Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Professional translators provided for meetings when needed.
- Translation of school documents into other languages. The school uses the program "Read and Write" which translates documents into any language requested.

Supporting School and District Language Policies

With regard to students entering Ozark whose mother tongue is not English, Ozark welcomes and supports these students, strives to identify them and their needs, and provides services to assist them in their acquisition of English. During the enrollment process, students with Low English Proficiency (LEP) are identified.

To determine whether a student speaks another language besides English in the home, a Home Language Survey is filled out when students register. One of the District's English Language Learner (ELL) teachers screen the LEP student to determine their English proficiency level. Based on the results of this screening, an LEP student may qualify for ELL services. There are approximately 4% of the student population in the district that qualify to receive services. These students would have a special class with an ELL instructor on a regular basis. Considering that a student is determined to be LEP and may as a result find academic success to be elusive, Ozark encourages the use of modifications by the classroom teachers. These modifications include, but are not limited to: a word bank for a test or an assignment, giving PowerPoint slides or other visual aids to a student, or allowing extra time for assignments, quizzes, and tests (perhaps in the ELL classroom). The possible modifications to regular classroom instruction are quite numerous at Ozark, and our ELL teachers provide a detailed and itemized list that might be of practical use by instructors dealing with LEP students in the academic arena.