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VHS IB PROGRAMS

Language Policy

Introduction:

This document includes provisions for second-language teaching and mother-tongue language support that meets the needs of students and reflects the principles of the program. At Venice High School (VHS) the IB Programs Language Policy sets out the philosophy and aims of language teaching and learning. It reviews the currently available options in Group 1 and Group 2, the VHS English Language Learner Program, and our support for learning mother-tongue languages.

Philosophy:

At Venice High School it is understood that language is central to all learning and all teachers are, in practice, language teachers who facilitate communication. For a student to be successful in and out of the classroom he/she must be able to use language appropriately with accuracy and confidence. We know that through language, both oral and written, students develop critical thinking skills and are provided with the foundations of communication. This foundation is transferable to other languages and to the acquisition of knowledge in other curricular areas.

As our world changes, the expectations for the 21st-century-world citizen have also changed. We recognize that students must become both culturally aware and linguistically proficient in a second language. The knowledge gained is not solely on the acquisition of a second language but includes the importance of cultural understanding which further prepares our students to be productive members of a global society. Language is the key to unlock understanding of all subject matter, to think and learn more critically, and to communicate with those around us.

Language Profile:

Venice High School adheres to the language requirements established by Sarasota County Schools and the State of Florida. In order to earn a high school diploma, all students are required to complete four years of mother-tongue (English). While second-language instruction isn't required for graduation, Venice High School encourages students to complete at least two years of second-language study in order to be prepared for state university requirements.

The general language profile for Venice High School includes students who generally fall into one of the following language profiles:

- Three or more years of language study in mother-tongue. A majority of VHS students speak English only in the home.
- Two or more years of language study in a second language.
- Bilingual students who speak English and another language in the home.
- Bilingual students with non-English speaking parents who have or are learning English in school.
- Students with limited English proficiency practice and remediate in English-language proficiency through our ESOL courses.

Other languages spoken by Venice High School students besides English include but aren't limited to:

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|------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Spanish | • Vietnamese | • Dutch |
| • Mandarin | • Tagalog | • Ukrainian |
| • Russian | • Serbian | • Polish |



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We are also aware that many subject offerings on campus have specific, content-based vocabulary, and therefore, a language all their own. These subject areas (including mathematics, the sciences, and technology-based courses) sometimes require specific interventions for students who need support learning or comprehending the language of that subject.

Language Offerings at VHS:

The language of instruction at VHS is English.

In an effort to support the mother tongue, students enrolled in IB Courses take Language A: Language & Literature, Higher Level. Students may also take either Language B: Spanish at either the Standard or Higher Level or Language B: Italian ab initio at the Standard Level. A small percentage of students will register for Language A: School-Supported, Self-Taught Language rather than a Language B course.

Middle school students in Sarasota County may progress through their curriculum and earn high school credit in both Spanish I & Spanish II. These students will be given the opportunity to also take Spanish III at the high school prior to enrolling in Language B. Other students, who may not have pursued the foreign languages at the middle school level will have taken either French, Chinese, or another second-language offering prior to their enrollment in Language B courses.

A minority of non-native, English-speaking students at Venice High School are enrolled in ESOL courses. Students with limited English proficiency can take IB English classes with support and remediation through the ESOL courses offered on campus. It is the desire of all staff and faculty at Venice High to make IB courses accessible to all students and not, therefore, limit a student’s options for accelerated coursework because of language difficulties.

Extra-Curricular Language and Culture Opportunities:

The following clubs are available to all VHS students to enrich experiences in mother-tongue languages, second languages or additional languages, with the aim of increasing cultural awareness and international-mindedness.

- Spanish Honor Society
- English Honor Society
- Poetry Club
- Drama Club
- Yearbook/Journalism courses
- VTV News
- Topical Discussions: History, Philosophy, TED Talks
- *The Arrow* Literary Magazine

Language Programs offered through Venice High School IBDP

Language Options in Groups 1 and 2

Group 1:

Language A 1	English HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students fluent in English. • Students studying English who have been exposed to the language for an extended period- either since birth or through schooling.
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Language A 2	School-supported, self-taught	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires meeting with and approval of coordinator. Students whose mother tongue is not English who are proficient communicators in another language. Requires community/family support.
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Group 2:

Language B	Spanish HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with three or more years' experience in the language. Highly proficient students willing to spend additional time on language study may register for HL upon request and teacher approval.
Language ab initio	Spanish Italian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who enter 9th or 10th grade with little or no experience in the language. Students who struggled with second-language instruction yet still wish to seek an IB Diploma. Students who transferred to Venice with little or no language experience.

Language Learning Sequences and Pathways

8 th grade	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish B	Spanish B
Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish ab initio	Spanish B	Spanish B
No language	Italian or Spanish 1	Italian or Spanish 2	Italian or Spanish ab initio	Italian or Spanish ab initio
			Spanish B (Students with As in Spanish 2 only)	Spanish B
No language	No Language	No Language or Language 1	Italian or Spanish ab initio	Italian or Spanish ab initio