



Diploma Programme Language Policy

Celebration High School

Updated December 2017



International Baccalaureate Organization Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Celebration High School Mission Statement:

Celebration High School is a challenging and rigorous educational learning community that is dedicated to the preparation of students to be life-long learners and contributing members in a rapidly changing world.

The development of this document was a collaborative effort between the Programme Coordinator, individual subject teachers, and the CHS administration. Feedback was sought by all stakeholders and the document was finalized in December of 2017.

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Celebration High School Diploma Programme Language Policy

School Mission Statement and Rationale

Celebration High School is a challenging and rigorous educational learning community that is dedicated to the preparation of all students to be life-long learners and contributing members in a rapidly changing world.

In order to be part of rapidly changing world, we will need to develop the language acquisition of all students so that they can communicate and contribute in a multicultural society.

Language Philosophy and Profile

We believe that language forms the basis for all learning, and all teachers at Celebration High School are, in effect, language teachers. Language plays an essential role in learning as it is strongly linked with cultural identity. Our students at Celebration High School speak 32 different languages and represent at least 63 different countries. Through language students are able to explore areas of interest, become life-long learners, and communicate in a diverse, multicultural world.

Language is the medium through which we communicate our ideas and emotions, and develop socially. It is the way in which we express, explore, and form new ideas, as well as build perspectives and cultural awareness. The most conducive environment to language learning is a positive and encouraging one where all students feel culturally valued and are able to take risks. We encourage students to develop their language proficiency through inquiry

based learning, exploring their own identities, adopting a global mindset, and working through real life scenarios. Our teachers create inclusive and equitable learning environments for all students with the ultimate goal of developing effective communicators in a diverse and multi-cultural world.

Language Pathways: Practices based on IB Standards

IB Standard A, Practice 7: The school places importance on language learning, including mother tongue, host country language and other languages.

Given that the students at Celebration High School come from 63 different countries and speak 32 different languages, language acquisition is critical to students' success. Language education is divided into studies in language and literature (Language A) and language acquisition courses (Language B). Language A is limited to the English language, which is the host country language, and students are taught English syntax, grammar, and communication skills in all IB classes. All students are involved in Language A learning from grades 9-12 which aligns with the requirements of Osceola County Public Schools, the ELA Florida State Standards, and the IB Language A objectives. Specifically within the IB Programme, the students will take the Language A Literature course which consists of the study of literature in English, including the study of selections of world literature. All Celebration High School students are encouraged to pursue proficiency in a second language (Language B). Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are all vital parts of language development, and our students can choose to develop these skills in either French or Spanish.

The majority of our students are English speakers, with Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic rounding out the top four. Many students are bilingual and multilingual, and the development

and maintenance of the mother tongue is supported by allowing the students to supplement their learning with their own cultural experiences. All students are given opportunities to use the language of their heritage in many ways, including using their mother tongue to access the curriculum and enhance class discussions and presentations. During class students are encouraged to bring in their own language experiences and cultural observations. This practice supports the students' mother tongue while helping to promote a global mindedness among other students.

IB Standard C3, Practice 7: Teaching and learning addresses the diversity of student language needs, including those for students learning a language(s) other than their mother tongue.

Celebration High School is a public high school so English proficiency is not required for admission. Students who do not speak English are given a language proficiency assessment to determine their level of English proficiency. The information gathered from the assessment is used to determine the level of additional support services needed. The IB program at Celebration High School accepts applications from all students regardless of English proficiency. Due to realistic school district budget constraints we are only allowed to accept a certain number of incoming students each year. Therefore, students whose first language is not English are expected to have a very strong foundation in English.

English Language Learner (ELL) support is available on a tutorial basis; however, because of our rigorous academic program and the fact that the Diploma Programme examinations are conducted in English, students must be proficient at or near grade level in reading, writing, and speaking skills. All incoming students undergo the same evaluation process which includes grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations. It is the goal of all teachers in

the IB Programme to provide a caring and inclusive environment for all students admitted to this program regardless of language proficiency. Our overall goal is to ensure that there are practices in place to provide inclusion and equity of access to IB programmes offered by the school for all learners.

All teachers at Celebration High School respond to students' needs, and therefore provide individual instruction as needed. Differentiation in language lessons is based on research-based best practices including practices supported by the IB Programme. The strategies include small groups, differentiated resources, graphic organizers, and visual representations of learning. French and Spanish speaking students are encouraged to help the Language B teachers of their respective mother tongues by working with students to develop proper accents and pronunciations of words during our Surge remediation time. In addition, teachers often select literary works that represent the cultural backgrounds of our students. This practice enhances the class discussions and helps all students develop an open mind about cultures that are different from their own.

IB Standard C1, Practice 8: Collaborative planning and reflection recognizes that all teachers are responsible for language development of students.

IB Standard C3, Practice 8: Teaching and learning demonstrates that all teachers are responsible for language development of students.

At Celebration High School, we recognize that since language is central to learning, all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication. Professional development and collaborative planning are built into the regular schedule of staff to make all teachers aware of their responsibilities in the fields of language learning and teaching. Teachers work together in professional learning communities to ensure that the basic

skills for all types of communication, oral, written, and visual, are explicitly planned for using our scope and sequence and unit plans. All teachers impact language development through reading and writing on a daily basis and by enabling students to see language as a means of self-expression and the exploration of self and others. Beyond daily conversations, students develop language skills through oral presentations, debates, speeches, and reading and writing assignments.

IB Standard B2, Practice 11: The school utilizes the resources and expertise of the community to enhance learning within the programmes.

In addition to standard school day instruction, Celebration High School is committed to providing students with opportunities and resources that enhance learning. Our school relies on parental involvement to provide resources for extracurricular learning opportunities. Students go on field trips to various colleges where they have additional learning opportunities such as using the host country language in context and gaining insight into the host country culture. During year one, students go to University of Central Florida to research for their extended essay where they are able to work in a local college setting. Through their CAS experiences, students are encouraged to interact with their community by choosing areas of need within their personal, local, or global community and developing action plans to address those needs. At Celebration High School, students also work with the Celebration Foundation, the Community Youth Soccer League, the local Rotary club, and Chick-fil-a Leadership Academy to become a well-rounded individual who is engaged in his community.