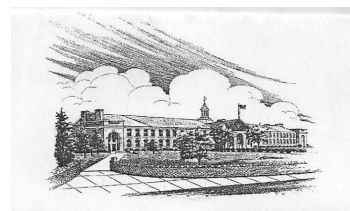




Granby High School IBDP and IBCP Language Policy



Granby High School Language Philosophy

The staff and administration of Granby High School and Norfolk Public Schools recognize that language is essential for acquiring knowledge. Proficiency in one's mother tongue, along with at least one additional language, is vital for an international education that fosters intercultural understanding. All teachers in our IB Diploma Programme (IB DP) and IB Career-Related Programme (IB CP) serve as language teachers, incorporating communication skills into their lessons. Language enables students to comprehend all subject matter, develop their identity and sense of community, think critically, and communicate effectively.

Mastery of one's mother tongue and learning a second language are crucial for broadening students' worldviews and cultural understanding, helping them appreciate that diverse perspectives can also be valid (IBO Mission). Studying different languages and cultures is an integral part of the IB Programmes, shaping compassionate and globally minded citizens.

Guiding Principles for Language Instruction

Language development is an ongoing process that involves students, parents, and teachers. Students engage in sustained silent reading and writing activities across all classes as part of our literacy focus.

Differentiated instruction is essential for effective teaching since students develop language skills at different rates. Some examples include:

- **Content Differentiation:** Varied Texts, Choice Boards (e.g., writing, speaking, visual), Tiered Vocabulary
- **Process Differentiation:** Flexible Grouping, Learning Stations, Scaffolding
- **Product Differentiation:** Choice of Assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, projects), Open-ended Tasks, Real-World Application
- **Environment Differentiation:** Classroom Arrangement, Learning Styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), Student Interests
- **Additional Strategies:** Use of Technology, Visual Aids, Collaborative Activities, Regular Assessment

All IB subjects are taught in English, except for DP Group 2 subjects, which are taught in the designated modern languages. Written and oral communication is emphasized in all subject areas, making all teachers language instructors.

Feedback on communication is a critical component of our programme; teachers provide both formative and summative feedback to enhance students' communication skills (see Assessment Policy).

Students learn about their own culture and other perspectives in all DP courses and through the Language and Culture Studies section of the Career-related Programme.

Language acquisition courses assess proficiency using Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs). All language learners are expected to approach language learning with academic integrity and avoid the unauthorized use of translation programs to complete work. (See Integrity Policy)

Spanish-speaking students can enroll in the Spanish for Fluent Speakers course, followed by AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP Spanish Literature and Culture, aimed at enhancing their proficiency in their mother tongue.

Supporting Multilingual Learners at Granby

- The French American School of Norfolk (FASN) operates within our school, offering English coursework alongside French classes taught by guest instructors. This program prepares students for the French Baccalaureate exam.
- Language acquisition students, along with those whose mother tongue is not English and who demonstrate proficiency in English via the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) End of Course exam, may qualify for the Virginia Seal of Biliteracy through successful completion of approved assessments, including IB Language B and AP Language assessments.
- Granby High School utilizes resources from NATO, families, and the community to support mother tongue languages other than English.
- Strategies such as sustained silent reading (SSR), classroom libraries, writing focus, and collaboration promote communication skill development.
- IBDP and IBCP teachers introduce and reinforce academic language within their curriculum.

Granby High School Language Profile

- Granby High School adheres to Norfolk Public Schools' second language requirements based on students' course of study. To earn the Advanced Studies Diploma in Virginia, students must complete at least three consecutive courses in a second language, or two consecutive courses in two languages, alongside four years of English instruction in high school. Students not pursuing the Advanced Studies Diploma may still study a second language to meet graduation requirements.
- IB DP students study one IB Language Acquisition option for four years (French, Latin, or Spanish).
- IB Course students may continue their IB Language Acquisition course.
- IB CP students must show Language and Culture Studies as part of the Career-related Programme core requirements, culminating in a Language Portfolio documenting 50 hours of Language and Culture Studies over two years.

Language and Culture Studies for the Career-related Programme

All IB CP students complete a Language Portfolio to demonstrate Language and Culture Studies over the two-year programme.

Students are provided time for Language and Culture Studies during the IB CP Personal & Professional Skills course in their junior and senior years, which will meet a minimum of 50 hours of development.

- IB CP students may take an IB DP Language B course as one of their required 2 IB DP courses, but must complete an additional 50 hours of Language and Culture Studies and a Language Portfolio.

- Students can also opt for non-IB language courses at GHS, with the requirement of a Language Portfolio developed over the two years.

Diverse Student Population Language Profiles

Granby High School serves a diverse student body, categorized into several language profiles:

- Students with two years of language acquisition study (mother tongue English).
- Students with three or more years of language acquisition study (mother tongue English).
- Students pursuing Advanced Placement language studies after four years of language acquisition (mother tongue English or target language).
- Bilingual students from English-speaking homes or those who have learned English in school.
- Limited English Proficiency students supported by ESL teachers; their needs are addressed in the School Improvement Plan.

Exposure to Regional Language and Culture of the Host Country

All IB DP and IB CP teachers employ teaching and learning strategies to enhance students' international mindedness and cultural understanding. Various school and community resources support host country language and culture, including:

- NPS English Learner's Family Academy: Monthly seminars for English Learners and their families.
- Courses in U.S. History and Government, Culinary Arts, and others.
- School-sanctioned field trips, ROTC, Model United Nations, Theory of Knowledge, and IB CP Personal & Professional Skills.
- Cultural comparisons across the curriculum.

Language acquisition courses offered at Granby High School

Chinese

- Levels I-III

French

- French Levels I-V
- IB French Ab Initio
- IB French SL

Latin

- Latin Levels I-AP
- IB Latin SL

Spanish

- Spanish Levels I-V, AP
- IB Spanish Ab Initio
- IB Spanish SL
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers Level I

ESL

- ESL Levels I-IV

Other courses are available to students through Virtual Virginia, a state virtual learning platform.

Admission to IB DP

Students who are accepted into the NPS preliminary IB program and enter Granby High School as 9th graders with one or two years of language courses are placed in NPS-Pre-IB language courses for grades nine and ten to prepare them for the IB Language B courses. Students seeking acceptance into the IB DP would ideally have at least one full credit (1 year) of French, Latin or Spanish from their 7th and/or 8th grade years. Students wishing to enter the program without prior credit in a language taught through the Granby High School IB DP must complete either an online summer course through Virtual Virginia or an individualized program involving language instruction or independent study over the summer.

Students who are not fluent in English may request alternative options for Language A instruction with support from parents, teachers, and/or the community members who speak the mother-tongue of the student. Limited English Proficiency students will be tested and provided support as English Learners in accordance with the Federal mandates for English Learners.

Admission to IB CP

Students who are accepted into the IB CP do not need any prior instruction in a language. Language and Culture Studies in the IB CP allows for students to begin and end development of language (evidence in portfolio) at various levels. The Language and Culture Studies Coordinator and IB CP Coordinator will utilize a self-assessment and questionnaire to determine language proficiency at the beginning of the IB CP.

Language Programs offered in the Granby High School IB DP

A student's language program depends on his/her level of proficiency as well as his/her background in the language.

- Language A: Literature at Higher Level in English
- Language B: French/Latin/Spanish at Standard Level, or Higher Level with the approval of the teacher, parent, and IB Coordinator.

Language Options in Group 1 and Group 2

Group 1:

Language A1	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher Level ● Students are fluent in the language ● Students are studying the language that they have been exposed to for an extended period—either since birth or for most of their schooling
Language A2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who meet the qualifications for A2 would meet with the IB Coordinator to discuss their options.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option has never been used in our program; however, it remains a possibility for students whose mother tongue is not English. Support from family/community required
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Group 2:

Language B	French Latin Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Level Students enter their 11th grade year with three or more years' experience in the language Highly proficient students willing to spend extra hours may register for HL Language upon request and approval.
Language AB Initio	French Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students transferring to Granby from another IB World School with little or no language instruction in French, Latin, or Spanish may have the option to test in Language AB Initio. The school develops an independent program of study for the student. This is not a typical option, but the plan would allow transfer students from an IB World school to continue their program to qualify for the IB Diploma.
Independent Study/Self-taught		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard or Higher Level, as appropriate Students need approval from the coordinator and the language B teacher in order to pursue language independent-study
Language and Culture Studies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB CP Core requirement – 50 hours of development Guidance, supervision, and time for development are part of the 2-year IB CP Personal & Professional skills class. Students must have a mentor proficient in the language chosen.

Language Levels/Sequence Choices and Support for Language Study in the DP

Language sequence/development is based upon language acquisition background at the time of acceptance into the IB DP or IB CP. This sequence is a guideline only. Individualized placement can occur based upon extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Language Acquisition Course Placement & Options:

- **Fluent Speakers:** 9th graders fluent in Spanish or French enroll in a language acquisition course for a different language.
- **Prior Language Study:** Students with 1-2 years of prior language study are placed in NPS-Pre-IB Language II, a different curriculum than 7th/8th grade Language II.
- **Advanced Students:** Students excelling in language study are encouraged to take an additional language elective and/or an Advanced Placement Language course.
- **Differentiated Instruction:** Teachers use differentiated instruction and various resources to maximize student language acquisition and proficiency.
- **AP Courses:** Advanced Placement Latin and Spanish are offered based on student proficiency.

Maintaining and Improving Language Proficiency:

- **Heritage Language Speakers:** Students who speak a language other than English or their school language are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to maintain/improve proficiency. They are strongly encouraged to pursue the Virginia Seal of Biliteracy.

Testing Accommodations & Support:

- **Translation Dictionaries:** Students whose first language is not English may use a translation dictionary for testing in groups 3, 4, 5 & 6 (See Assessment Policy).
- **Native Language Exams:** Students whose first language is French or Spanish may, upon request and approval, register for EE and Group 3, 4, 5 & 6 exams in their mother tongue.

IB Diploma & Career-related Programme (CP) Considerations:

- **IB Diploma Requirement:** Students not continuing their 2-year language sequence will not qualify for the IB Diploma and will be moved to "course status" after a meeting with the student, parent, and counselor.
- **IB CP Language Options:** IB CP students can take IB DP Language courses as part of their 2 DP subject requirements or as an additional course.
- **IB CP Language Portfolio:** IB CP students *must* complete a language portfolio demonstrating 50+ hours of Language and Culture Studies over the 2-year program. Students must improve oral communication, visual interpretation, reading, and writing skills in the target language of their choice, documenting hours and reflecting in a journal for each task/activity/event, with evidence provided in the portfolio.

Language Levels/Sequence Choices and Support for Language Study in the DP & CP Programmes

Grade Level	DP Language Options				IB CP Language and Culture Studies
	French	Latin	Spanish	Other Languages	
7th	French I	Latin I	Spanish I	Level 1 or higher of Chinese/French /Spanish	
8th	French I or II	Latin I or II	Spanish I or II	Level 1 or higher of Chinese/French /Spanish	
9th	NPS-Pre-IB French II	Latin II or NPS-Pre-IB Latin III	NPS-Pre-IB Spanish II		Language and Culture Studies through the IB CP PPS course
10th	NPS-Pre-IB French III	NPS-Pre-IB Latin III or Latin IV	NPS-Pre-IB Spanish III		Language and Culture Studies through the IB CP PPS course
11th	IB French IV	IB Latin IV and AP Latin	IB Spanish IV	Optional: Additional Course - Advanced	

				Placement Spanish	
12th	IB French V	Advanced IB Latin	IB Spanish V		
Summer before IBDP				Summer Level I course or independent study in IBDP supported language	Same as above for selected summer acquisition language.
IBDP (11th/12th)					Same as above for selected language.

This policy was revised February 6, 2025 by the GHS Language Policy Committee after a review of the following documents:

- *IBO Guidelines for Developing School Language Policy*
- *IBO IBCP and IBDP Programme Standards and Practices*

Policy review and distribution:

- Copies of our current policies may be found on our GHS IB Program page.
- Stakeholders (students and parents) receive digital copies through e-mail and through the IB CANVAS pages.
- The IBDP and IBCP Coordinators ask for feedback on policies from all stakeholders in June of each year through our annual survey and adjust the policies in consultation with administration, teachers, students, and parents.