

Tualatin High School Language Policy

Philosophy

Tualatin High School values and respects the linguistic and cultural diversity of all learners. We recognize that language is central to all learning and thus that all teachers are language teachers with the responsibility to effectively facilitate communication.

Tualatin High teachers are proficient in their abilities to incorporate reading, writing, speaking and listening into each lesson in a way that all learners are involved in differentiated and varied instruction.

Language Programs At Tualatin HS

Students in the Tualatin School District are required to take English (Language Arts) in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. These courses focus on the development of communication skills and divergent thinking. Each course encourages students to explore important contemporary and historical issues by reading modern literature, writing in a variety of modes, analyzing related films, discussing or debating the issues/concepts with classmates, and improving individual vocabularies. Each year is set up to also help students to reach the Common Core standards in reading, writing and speaking.

Students and families that do not speak English as their mother tongue are supported with additional services in our school and are highly encouraged to attend all parent meetings. Translators are provided to add to this support.

Our Multicultural Coordinator has been instrumental in helping many of our Native Spanish-speaking students get the prerequisites needed to be able to take the advanced courses needed in order to enter the IB Diploma program as Juniors. We have a higher Spanish-speaking diploma candidate ratio than ever before. This brings about greater challenges for those students wishing to explore the Spanish language in greater depth, as we only offer Spanish for Standard level.

On a case-by-case basis, Mother tongue languages may be offered at the A level. We currently offer a non-IB Spanish for Spanish Speakers course and are working toward offering it at the IB Standard Level.

Second Language Acquisition

French and Spanish are taught at Tualatin High School. Students begin their second language acquisition as either 8 or 9th graders. They enter the diploma program when they are either at the 3rd or 4th level of their second language. Currently both French and Spanish are taught for 4 years and students test at the Standard level.

All staff members at Tualatin High School are supported in developing strategies to help students with their language skills. This support takes the form of targeted professional development for the entire staff focusing on reading strategies and differentiation and collaboration between staff and language specialists. Staff members are also regularly provided with opportunities to update and revisit their strategies for helping students with language acquisition.

Knowing that success in a language strongly correlates to a student's ability in his/her native language, Tualatin High offers the English Language Learners Program. This meets the needs of those whose mother tongue is not English. This program is designed to help speakers of other languages develop proficiency in English and achieve success in content area courses. The goal of the ELL program is for students to continue to develop their native language skills while continuously improving their English to the point where they can be successful in non-ELL courses. The languages at our school are Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Chuuk, Samoan, Kurdish, Somali, Tagalog, Carolinian, Italian, and Spanish. There are 5 levels of ELL support until those that are ready can graduate out of the ELL program.

Many of our main subject courses are also offered in the sheltered instructional model where an additional staff member is present to aide the classroom teacher in working with the ELL students present in class.

Spanish for Native Speakers is also offered to help those whose mother tongue is Spanish to learn the basics of reading and writing in their mother tongue at the same time that they are learning it in their English classes.

Many foreign exchange students attend Tualatin High and are encouraged to share their cultures in the classroom and in formal presentations to the school. Our foreign exchange students' cultures are respected and celebrated in several activities over the course of the year.

Students are encouraged to take courses at the IB levels as juniors or seniors even if they are not intending to accomplish the full IB Diploma.

Language Policy Logistics

Every 2-3 years this document will be revised while looking at our language offerings and determining if other languages can be supported in our educational setting.

The key evaluators of the effectiveness of this document will be the IB coordinator, the Vice Principal in charge of curriculum, and the language teachers.

This document is posted on the school website in the IB link.

This document was created with input from English teachers, the multicultural coordinator, second language teachers, administration and the IB Coordinator.
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