

Lincoln High School Language Guidance

Lincoln High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) language philosophy, in accordance with the International Baccalaureate Organisation's policies, recognises that language is central to learning. All teachers are responsible for the language development of their students and are responsible for facilitating communication through the planning and delivery of their courses. LHS recognizes the importance of both native and learned languages, honors students' need to develop the skills necessary to appreciate the nuances of meaning in those languages, and enables students to communicate in sophisticated ways.

Lincoln IB aligns with the Middle Years Programme Language Acquisition Guide, which states that the acquisition of the language of a community and the possibilities to reflect upon and explore cultural perspectives of our own and other communities:

- is valued as central to developing critical thinking and is considered essential for the cultivation of intercultural awareness and the development of internationally minded and responsible members of local, national and global communities
- is integral to exploring and sustaining personal development and cultural identity, and provides an intellectual framework to support conceptual development.
- greatly contributes to the holistic development of students and to the strengthening of lifelong learning skills
- equips students with the necessary multiliteracy skills and attitudes, enabling them to communicate successfully in various global contexts and build intercultural understanding.

As stated in Language and Learning in IB Programmes, "the ability to communicate in a variety of modes in more than one language is essential to the IB concept of an international education that promotes intercultural perspectives," which is one of the foundations of our language philosophy.

School Language Profile

A. IB Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme Admissions

The state of Oregon requires students to take two years of the same world language in order to graduate from high school. Therefore, External (non-Dual Language Immersion students from our feeder school) students entering Lincoln as freshmen are admitted to the IB Year 4 and 5 Middle Years Programme. These students will have the option to pursue language B courses in Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, and Spanish. Students continuing on to diploma level courses must sit for the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL) exam in their terminal year of studying that language.

Internal (Dual Language Spanish Immersion students from our elementary and middle feeder schools) students enter the Lengua A pathway as freshmen. Spanish DLI students may only test at the Language A-Spanish HL level. Students can reach the 7-8 level of all of these languages by taking the language each year of high school starting in the ninth grade. To reach the 9-10 level students need experience in the language prior to high school. Students hoping to sit for the SL exam in a language must reach the 7-8 level, where the numbers represent the number of semesters (2 per year) the student studied the language. Exceptions may be made for students who cannot reach this level by senior year. The IB coordinator and the appropriate language teachers will evaluate these exceptions on a case by case basis. These exceptions would apply to a student transferring to Lincoln after their ninth grade year who had previously studied a language we do not offer. The student may then start a language here to prepare for the ab initio SL exam. For the greatest likelihood of

success on an *ab initio* exam these students should plan on completing a 5-6 language course. Students may take online courses offered through an accredited program in order to reach the highest level to be prepared for the test.

Lincoln also offers Mandarin Chinese and Arabic. Currently, Arabic is primarily offered at the *ab initio* level and students need to take four years of Arabic to be prepared for the IB exam. Students may take Mandarin Chinese at the *ab initio* or regular *Standard Level* depending on the number of years of experience the student has in the language. Four years of study is recommended for *ab initio* and five years is recommended for *SL*. There may be some students of Mandarin Chinese who are eligible to sit for the *HL* exam. The middle school that feeds into Lincoln offers both of these languages and students may start those languages in the middle school.

B. Language Groups in the School Community.

While the majority of Lincoln High School IB students are native English speakers, it is important to point out that some students have varied linguistic and cultural backgrounds due to living abroad and/or having multicultural families. At least 10% of our students first learned a language other than English, and we are aware of more than 30 languages spoken by our students in their homes.

The predominant language of instruction at the school is English. Lincoln mainstream teachers, who teach in the MYP and IB Programme, are native or near native English speakers, and communicate with students in English. The academic environment exposes students to a variety of language acquisition opportunities while encouraging bilingual development. The MYP/IB language acquisition teachers come from a variety of countries, interact with students primarily in their language of instruction, and model and encourage the use of Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and German whenever possible.

Students who do not speak English as their mother tongue are assessed to determine placement in English Language Development (ELD) classes. The primary language need for the majority of our language acquisition students is to build both social and academic language skills and knowledge while continuing to strengthen their English literacy. A few students who have come from other countries require support in developing their English language proficiency. The goal of these classes is to increase students' proficiency in English in order to help them be academically successful in their course work at Lincoln. Several teachers at Lincoln are trained in the use of pedagogical strategies to support English language learners in their classrooms. All teachers endeavor to treat each learner as an individual regarding their language needs.

Students who have a mother tongue or previous experience with one of the languages taught at Lincoln may enter a language program above the 1-2 level. We encourage students to pursue instruction in their mother tongue at a level appropriate for the student, ideally at the highest level of the language offered. This may include taking classes at Portland State University, which is within walking distance of Lincoln. This might be the case for students who demonstrate a high level of fluency yet still lack strong literacy skills or grammatical accuracy. However, these students should not anticipate taking the Language B exam. IB guidelines clearly state that Language B courses are designed for language learners rather than native speakers. Students who are fluent in a language other than English are encouraged to pursue a bilingual diploma and can complete the Language A: Literature School Supported Self-Taught course in their mother tongue.

Lincoln High School also houses a Spanish Immersion program for students who have been studying Spanish the entirety of their educational career and have achieved native level fluency by the time they matriculate to Lincoln. Students on this track enroll in Spanish A: Lengua y Literatura HL and complete the course in their Junior and Senior years.

The majority of the IB parents are English speakers. Official communication with stakeholders, through workshops and programme guidebooks, is done in English. Families with a language other than English as their first language have the option to receive translation services for meetings and receive information in their first language.

C. Language of Instruction

IB Middle Years Programme Programme (Years 4-5) Grades 9th and 10.

The language of instruction for the Middle Years Programme subjects is English in the following subjects:

- English (1-2 and 3-4)
- Individuals and Societies (US History: Ethnic Studies, Political Economy/Government)
- Mathematics (Algebra 1-2, Geometry, Algebra 3-4)
- Arts (2D Design, Digital Media)
- Physical Education (PE and Health 1-2)
- Technology and Home Economics (Computer Science, Personal Finance, Culinary)
- Science (NGSS Physics, NGSS Chemistry)
- Language Acquisition Middle Years Programme subjects Phase 1 & 2 (WL 1-2 WL 3--4) Phase 3 & 4 (WL 4-5) are taught in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, and Spanish levels 1-2 (mostly 9th grade) and 3-4 (mostly 10th grade)

IB Diploma Programme (Years 6-7) 11th and 12th grade

The language of instruction of the Diploma Programme subjects is English, except for Spanish A: Lengua and Literature and Spanish, French, and German B.

For the non-Diploma subjects in Years 6 and 7, the language of instruction is English.

Process for Review

This guidance is reviewed annually. The last review was 10/20/24.