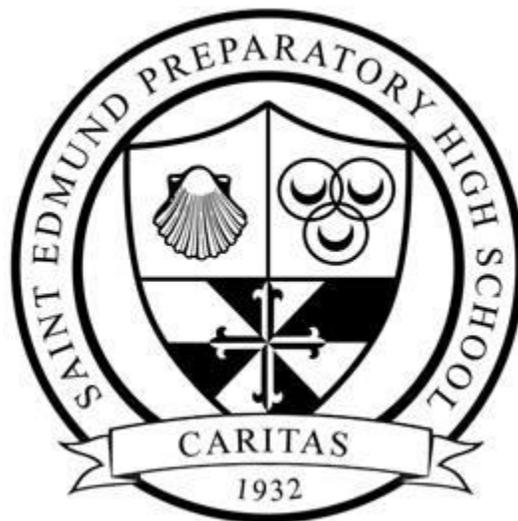


The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Language Policy

St. Edmund Preparatory High School



Adopted: April, 2014

Modified: March 2017

Language Policy

At St. Edmund Preparatory High School, we encourage the study of a variety of modern world languages and classical languages, as part of our efforts to promote international mindedness and an awareness of the importance of being involved in a global society. Through these classes, students are exposed to cultures that exist beyond their own, and many world languages are represented among our staff and student population.

As part of their regular studies, students continue to gain proficiency in our working language of English. In the MYP, their language and literature class will be taught in English, and in the DP, their Language A class will be taught in English. In addition, they study at least one other modern language, improving upon what they already know or even learning it for the first time.

School Language Profile

Working Language:

This is the primary language of the school. It is used:

- during school events and official meetings
- as the written language of official school policies
- for public announcements
- for class syllabuses
- as one of the languages for student handbooks
- during professional development
- for class web sites

At St. Edmund Prep, this language is **English**.

Access Languages:

These are languages that have been identified as being important for our specific community. These languages are used, in addition to our working language of English, and when appropriate and necessary,

- for communicating with the families of students
- for making public announcements

At St. Edmund, our access languages are **Spanish, Italian, and Mandarin**. These are the languages through which we are most able to support students' mother tongues.

Languages of instruction: This is the language in which all courses, with the exception of some language courses, are taught. At St. Edmund Prep, our language of instruction is **English**.

Response Language:

This is the language that students are expected to use during class time, for written assignments, and the language in which they will take formal examinations (with the exception of some language courses). For St. Edmund Prep, this language is **English**.

Course Languages:

These are languages of instruction for specific modern languages. In addition to our working language of English, courses are offered in Spanish, Italian Mandarin Chinese, and Latin.

Spoken Languages:

These are languages that are spoken by students at home and/or by our staff. These languages include, but are not limited to, English, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Creole, and Greek. When necessary, we will bring in someone to translate a conversation if the language is not spoken by a staff or faculty member.

Support for Mother Tongue/Host Language

At St. Edmund Prep, the primary language spoken by students and their families is English. However, in order to better support the mother tongue of our students whose primary language is not English, we will give Diploma Programme students the option to complete a self-taught Language A - Literature course in their mother tongue. If a student is interested in doing this, they should meet with the IB Coordinator at the end of their sophomore year to plan a syllabus.

Students who speak another language at home are supported in our building. We have had students share their culture during class time. Some classes have special culture days where community members help to educate our students. Students with unique language needs, Mandarin, for instance, have been introduced to other students so they can support each other as they learn English or simply as they maintain their native language. Our media centers offer support by providing a wide variety of multicultural literature so students can research their own cultures as well as the cultures of others.

Students who speak Spanish and Mandarin at home are most particularly supported in the building by teachers who speak this language fluently. They meet after school to discuss how learning primarily in English and living in New York City is working for them, and the Chinese teacher helps them to learn the English language. The teachers also advocate for these students and ensure that the other teachers are doing what they can to support these students in the classroom. As we do not have any English Language Learner classes, we allow the use of translators until a time that they are more comfortable with the language. This is usually in their second year in the school. We will also differentiate lessons with the help of the Chinese teacher if need be.

Summary of Language Policy

<i>Working Language</i>	<i>Language of Instruction</i>	<i>Response Language</i>	<i>Access Languages/ Support Languages</i>	<i>Course Languages</i>
English	English (except in language courses where appropriate)	English (except in language courses where appropriate)	Spanish Italian Mandarin Chinese French Creole	English Spanish Mandarin Italian Latin

Policy Review

Policies will be reviewed annually by the Academic Leadership and a voluntary committee of teachers.