



Language Policy

Philosophy:

Riverstone International School views each student as a language learner and each member of our community is regarded as a language teacher. Riverstone International School strives to give all students the skills necessary to become thoughtful citizens of the world in which information analysis and synthesis are becoming increasingly more challenging.

Riverstone International School believes its students need a firm foundation in the fundamentals and structure of language, through exposure to a variety of writing styles and genres, and through the integration of reading and writing. Riverstone International School believes that language acquisition should be a balanced program that includes the following components: pre-reading, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing.

All languages are valued at Riverstone International School. As an international school with a boarding program, Riverstone hosts students from all over the world. With the exception of World Languages and Self Taught Literature, all classes are taught in English, the predominant language of the State of Idaho and the United States.

To support our English Language Learner student population, Riverstone International School offers an English Language Learners course and first language support courses in Grades 9-12. These courses are designed to assist students in developing their English language skills and to support the maintenance of their first language.

Riverstone Language Profile – School Year 2022-2023

Cantonese	Dutch	English	French	German	Hebrew	Italian	Japanese	Korean	Mandarin	Portuguese	Russian	Serbo Croatian	Spanish	Vietnamese
1	2	332	1	4	1	1	5	5	12	3	2	1	4	2

World Languages

Riverstone International School feels that all languages strengthen our learning community and strives to ensure every student studies an additional language in every grade. World Languages are a core subject at Riverstone.

As an IB World School, we are committed to the following practices:

- The school places importance on language learning, including mother tongue, host country language and other languages. (IB Standard A7)
- Teaching and learning addresses the diversity of student language needs, including those for students learning a language(s) other than their mother tongue. (IB Standard C3.7)
- Teaching and learning demonstrates that all teachers are responsible for language development

- of students (IB Standard C3.8)
- Assessment at the school aligns with the requirements of the program(s). (IB Standard C4.1)
Collaborative planning and reflection recognizes that all teachers are responsible for language development of students. (IB Standard C1.8)
- The school utilizes the resources and expertise of the community to enhance learning within the programs. (IB Standard B2.11)

Inclusion

In the spirit of our school's Inclusion Policy, we believe that all students should study their first and a second language. It is the school's responsibility to strive to provide meaningful first and second language opportunities for all of our students.

Role of the Media Specialist/Librarian

The Media Specialist/Librarian's role is to curate a collection of general reading materials that include a variety of genres within fiction and nonfiction and are appropriate for the school's population. Additionally, the media specialist/librarian works in conjunction with classroom teachers for instruction on styles of citation and referencing. Another role for the media specialist/librarian is to engage with faculty and students from across the PYP at the beginning and during units of study to support learning through a variety of books.

Primary Years Program (PYP)

World Language teachers connect to the units of inquiry as it naturally applies. Spanish is taught to students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5. Pre-Kindergarten students are immersed in a dual language classroom with one teacher speaking English and the other teacher speaking Spanish. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students attend Spanish instruction throughout the week. In Grades 2 - 5, students learn two World Languages dividing their week between Spanish and Mandarin. This structure allows students the ability to make a more informed World Language choice when they select Language B in Middle School.

Middle Years Program (MYP)

Placement at Grade 6 - 8: During the admissions process the Admissions Office will screen student records and discuss language options with prospective students and parents. Students who are new to Riverstone in Grades 6-10 will be assessed as part of the admissions process to determine which Language B Phase will be best for them in the upcoming school year. All parents are invited to an informational meeting regarding the language phases and options for their child throughout the Middle Years Program. Families have the opportunity to select either Spanish or Mandarin as their child's Language B choice. No prior language skills are required for Spanish or Mandarin placement at Grade 6. At the end of each year, students are assessed for placement in the next phase of their language.

Placements at Grade 9 and 10.

During the admissions process the Admissions Office will screen student records and discuss language options with prospective students and parents. Returning students must continue with their established Language B and may NOT switch language courses at the Grade 9 or 10 levels. New students will be permitted to enroll in Spanish or Mandarin ONLY if they have taken at least two years of formal

language classes at another school, engaged in an intensive language program, learned the language during an exchange program or speak the language as a heritage speaker.

Under these circumstances, students and parents should expect that placements may still be subject to the language teacher's assessment of that student's ability. Riverstone wants to ensure the student has a good opportunity to be successful. The language teacher and division director might recommend additional tutoring for the student at the family's expense or that they be placed in Language Ab Initio through Pamoja Education. Pamoja Education is the IB's online course provider. Admissions to this program are done by Pamoja.

ELL students entering Grades 9 and 10 are assessed with an English fluency exam (currently TOEFL or IELTS) for final placement in either English A or English B and a self-taught L1 language course.

Diploma Program (DP)

Placement at Grade 11: During the admissions process the Admissions Office will screen student records and discuss language options with prospective students and parents. Returning students must continue with their established Language B and may NOT switch language courses at the Grade 11 level unless it is into a new *ab initio* language. New students will be permitted to enroll in Spanish B SL/HL or Mandarin SL/HL ONLY if they have taken at least three years of formal language classes at another accredited institution or are able to demonstrate proficiency in the language that may have been obtained in a non-classroom environment. If new students have not had three years of satisfactory study of a World Language, they will instead enroll in French *ab initio*.

Placement at Grade 12: Returning students must continue with their established Language B and may NOT switch language courses at the Grade 12 level. New students will be permitted to enroll in Spanish B SL/HL or French B SL/HL ONLY if they have taken at least four years of formal language classes at another accredited institution. In addition, Grade 12 students may enroll in the second year of an Ab Initio only if they have taken at least one year of formal language classes at another accredited institution. Students and parents should note that students enrolling in Spanish B SL/HL, French SL/HL, or Ab Initio in Grade 12 are NOT eligible for an IB certificate in the language of study. If new students have not completed the satisfactory study of a World Language as described above, they will instead enroll in a self-taught or elective course as available at the school.

ELL students entering Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be placed in English B and a first language course. ELL students wishing to take English A in Grades 11 and 12 will be assessed with an English fluency exam (currently TOEFL or IELTS) and on the recommendation of the receiving teacher for final placement in either English A. Placements are made on a case-by-case basis on the recommendations of the involved faculty and program coordinators.

The Riverstone Language Policy will be reevaluated by a faculty committee under the direction of administration each year in April.

Updated 10/31/22