



Riverside Secondary School



Mr. T. Omar, B.Sc., B. Ed., Principal
Ms. K. Rocheleau, B.H.K., B. Ed., Vice-Principal

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Policy

Riverside Secondary School is a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The Riverside Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Admissions, Language, Inclusion, Academic Honesty and Assessment Policies have been developed to provide clarity to all stakeholders with regard to the implementation and procedures in place within the Riverside Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Language Philosophy

The Riverside Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme recognizes the importance of language development in learning. As an Ontario school, Riverside is committed to developing both official Canadian languages as well as their associated cultural traditions. Further, it recognizes the importance of developing a love of, respect for, and understanding of the importance of, learning languages other than one's mother tongue in an increasingly connected global community. In meeting these commitments, students preparing to become International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates study two languages beginning in the ninth grade. As a school with a variety of mother tongues, Riverside Secondary School recognizes and values students' mother tongues.

Language of Instruction

English is the principal language of instruction at Riverside Secondary School. Within the Diploma Programme at the school, students will study English Language and Literature at the High Level as their Language A requirement. In preparation, students will study the Ontario English curriculum in their ninth and tenth grade years. Success in the Diploma Programme requires proficiency in English and will be a significant factor for students in all of their courses. Assessment of students' language skills and potential for success form an integral part of the application process for the Riverside Preparatory Program and Diploma Programme. The school recognizes the responsibility of all teachers to develop language as a cross-curricular communication tool.

Language Acquisition

Language acquisition at Riverside Secondary School is recognized as a means of communication in a global society as well as for the purpose of cultural understanding and appreciation. This development and appreciation is a key component in fostering international mindedness.

Riverside Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students will study Standard Level Language B French. Students in Ontario schools will have developed a strong base in the language in their primary and junior years. Students intending to complete the Language B French course will be expected to complete French courses in ninth and tenth grades as part of the Riverside Preparatory Program.



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The Riverside Secondary School Diploma Programme also offers SL Ab Initio Spanish as an opportunity for language acquisition for students who have not had the opportunity to study French to the degree necessary to successfully attempt the Language B French Program or who would like to acquire a third language, in addition to English and French.

Ontario Curriculum dictates that students must obtain at least one credit in French to complete the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Most students will obtain this credit in the ninth grade. Any exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the principal.

Language Support for English Language Learners (ELL)

Riverside Secondary School recognizes the need for International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Students to be proficient in reading, writing and oral communication in English to be successful in the Programme. These skills are assessed upon application to the Programme. The Greater Essex County District School Board offers English as a Second Language Programs aimed at supporting students as they develop their English language proficiency. Students whose skills require development to prepare for success in the Diploma Programme are will be referred to these courses in preparation for success in the IBDP.

Professional Development for Teachers

Riverside Secondary School recognizes the importance of professional development in the area of language learning and teaching for administrators, teachers, librarians, and other school staff. Opportunities to accomplish this development will be achieved through official IB Training Sessions, GECSDB training sessions and initiatives, Professional Development activities at the school, within and between departments.

References:

Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy April 2008

Language and Learning in the IB Programmes September 2011

Learning in a Language other than Mother Tongue in IB Programmes April 2008

Hasseris Gymnasium & IB World School Language Policy May 2016

Northumberland Regional High School Language Policy

Language Policy International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Rio Mesa High School September 2014

Turner Fenton SS – IB Language Policy