** **

**Ridgeway High School 2015-2016**

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME**

**LANGUAGE POLICY**

**Ridgeway High School Language Philosophy**

Ridgeway High School is committed through its access agenda to reach students from a variety of cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework that will ensure that Ridgeway High School encourages students to recognize the importance of language learning and multiculturalism in our world. We define ‘multilingualism’ as the ability to communicate in two or more languages and ‘multiculturalism’ as the preservation and interaction of different cultural identities within our community. We acknowledge that all teachers are language teachers, modeling effective communication skills in their respective disciplines. Our students work to deepen their understanding of their native language and culture through the development of the mother tongue. We also recognize that the learning of additional languages further empowers students to enhance their communicative skills and broaden their perspectives. For that reason, we encourage our students to develop an awareness and appreciation of the value of language through second language. At Ridgeway High School, we are committed to promoting language as the central tool for sharing and acquiring culture. Through the study of language, the IB Learner Profile is nurtured and challenged for the benefit of each learner and the community as a whole.

**Second Language Acquisition**

Students at Ridgeway High School are required to study Spanish, French, or Chinese as their second language of choice for at least two years, and are encouraged to pursue a third and fourth year as appropriate for each student’s individual academic program. The goal of the second language instruction at Ridgeway High School is to provide students with opportunities to:

* Develop skills such as listening and reading comprehension.
* Develop written and conversational proficiency in the target language.
* Practice grammar and vocabulary within a cultural framework that promotes awareness and respect of the language’s countries, customs, and culture.

Students are encouraged to communicate with each other in their second language of choice. World language teachers use the target language during instructions to varying degrees, dependent upon the challenge level of the course. Grades 9 and 10 students may take standard or honors second language courses. Grades 11 and 12 may take standard, honors, or college-level language courses.

National Language Honors Associations are not available at this time; however, the possibility for future affiliation is under advisement.

**IB Language Offerings at Ridgeway High School**

Diploma Programme students must take one subject from Group 1 and one subject from Group 2.

**Group 1**

Ridgeway High School offers English Literature HL

The aims of language A: literature and language A: language and literature at SL and at HL and of literature and performance at SL are to:

* introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres
* develop in students the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of individual texts and make relevant connections
* develop the students’ powers of expression, both in oral and written communication
* encourage students to recognize the importance of the contexts in which texts are written and received
* encourage, through the study of texts, an appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures, and how these perspectives construct meaning
* encourage students to appreciate the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts
* promote in students an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, language and literature.

Language A: literature aims

In addition, the aims of the language A: literature course at SL and at HL are to:

* develop in students an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism
* develop the students’ ability to form independent literary judgments and to support those ideas.

**Group 2**

Ridgeway High School offers Spanish B and French B at Standard Level.

The aims of group 2, as defined by the IB Programme, are to:

* develop students’ intercultural understanding
* enable students to understand and use the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes
* encourage, through the study of texts and through social interaction, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures
* develop students’ awareness of the role of language in relation to other areas of knowledge
* develop students’ awareness of the relationship between the languages and cultures with which they are familiar
* provide student with a basis for further study, work and leisure through the use o an additional language
* provide the opportunity for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of an additional language

**ELL Language Learners**

Ridgeway High School creates and fosters a multicultural curriculum to enhance the education of all students. Our traditional program at Ridgeway High School welcomes our English Language Learners and strives to celebrate, nurture, and challenge them through their educational experience. Language and literacy are essential for individual and collective empowerment. Therefore, our **ESL** program helps our students find their voice and reach their goals by supporting the development of their language skills. The program has one full-time ESL teacher with her own dedicated classroom and a spending budget of $300 per year. She and her students have access to the latest technology including, but not limited to, Smart Boards, desk & lap top computers, printers, textbooks, and other ancillary materials.

All ESL students are enrolled according to their testing data. All students are enrolled in ESL English, but some of the more proficient students are enrolled in regular ELA courses as well. Nevertheless, even while enrolled in regular ELA courses they receive support and accommodations as prescribed by their LSPs (English Language Plan). All ESL students receive accommodation & modification on all tests/exams, be it teacher generated or state tests. Some of the most common accommodations & modifications include, but are not limited to, extra time, alternative tests, word banks, shortened exam times, read-aloud, & flexible grading. In addition to these accommodations & modifications, the ESL teacher collaborates with the regular course teachers on students’ accommodations, modifications, scheduling, and assignments. All students participate in at least one club and many choose to participate in athletics and other academic organizations. In addition to the above, the current ESL teacher makes it a point to submerge the ESL students into the culture of the school, community, and region. Some of these cultural education opportunities include tours of the school & campus, field trips to local attractions, and each student is enrolled in an ESL civics course that introduces them to governmental and citizenship concepts.

**Mother Tongue Support**

Ridgeway High School recognizes the importance of maintaining the development of the mother tongue. In cases where the school cannot offer instruction in the mother tongue language, it will seek to support students and their families in mother-tongue maintenance by connecting students with faculty members who have an understanding of the students’ mother tongue and culture.