



## 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 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 equally at Riverstone International School. Being an international school, Riverstone has students from all over the world. With the exception of World Languages, all classes are taught in English, the language of the host country. Students speaking another language as their mother tongue are identified to determine if additional services are needed, either in-house or privately. To support our English Language Learner student population, Riverstone International School offers an English Language Learners course for grades 9 -12. This course is designed to assist students in developing their English language skills and to support them in their studies in their core classes.

### **World Languages:**

Riverstone International School feels that all languages strengthen our learning community and therefore offer another World Language beginning in Pre-Kindergarten and continuing through Grade 12. Riverstone International School places a high value on the study of World Languages. Riverstone International School considers World Languages a core subject area and requires all students to participate in a World Language unless the appropriate Division Director deem the student exempt.

At Riverstone International School we are committed to providing an inclusive and equitable learning environment. We aim to ensure access to the three IB programmes offered by the school for all students.

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 programme(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 programmes. (IB Standard B2.11)

### ***Primary Years Programme (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 students through Grade 3 students attend Spanish instruction throughout the week. In Grade 4 and Grade 5, students are exposed to two World Languages currently 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 Programme (MYP)***

**Placement at Grade 6 - 8:** Students have the opportunity to select either Spanish or Mandarin as their Language B choice. No prior language skills are required for Spanish or Mandarin placement at these grade levels; however, Grade 6 – 8 students are strongly encouraged to choose a Language B that build on their previous experience.

**Placement at Grade 9 and 10:** 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 accredited institution. Under these circumstances, students and parents should expect that the language teacher might recommend additional tutoring for the student at the family’s expense. Students and parents should expect to work with the language teacher(s) to establish the topics to be covered and the estimated hours of tutoring necessary. If new students have not had two years of satisfactory study of a world language, they will instead enroll in a self-taught or elective course as available at the school and wait to enroll in a Language B course (at Ab Initio level) in Grade 11.

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 Programme (DP)***

**Placement at Grade 11:** Returning students must continue with their established Language B and may NOT switch language courses at the Grade 11 level. New students will be permitted to enroll in

Spanish B SL/HL or French SL/HL ONLY if they have taken at least three years of formal language classes at another accredited institution. If new students have not had three years of satisfactory study of a World Language, they will instead enroll in an IB Ab Initio course, which the school will offer as enrollment deems necessary.

**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 11 and 12 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.

The Riverstone Language Policy will be reevaluated by a faculty committee under the direction of administration on a 3 year cycle.

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