Fike High School IB Program: Language Policy

(revised August, 2023) - revised yearly at the back to school meeting

Mission and Vision:

The philosophies and principles integral to the missions and vision of Wilson County Schools and Fike High School include fostering lifelong learners prepared for college and career and for becoming responsible citizens in a global society. These initiatives are in line with the IB Mission Statement in regards to developing challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment in order to help develop students to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Language Profile of Fike High School

- English - dominant language most spoken in our school and community
- Spanish - secondary language, but the mother tongue for many in our school and community
- A small percentage of IB students were enrolled in the Spanish immersion program in elementary school and/or continued a linguistic immersion program during middle school
- Language is of strategic importance in meeting the goals and objectives of developing a more inclusive and diverse IB community
- Multiculturalism is supported as fundamental to increasing intercultural understanding and international-mindedness; This extends to students of various cultural and linguistic backgrounds

Therefore, the IB Program at Fike offers Spanish as the foreign language of study.

- Graduates entering a college or university are legally required to complete 2 courses in a foreign language
- Pre-IB students are required to complete 3 courses in a foreign language prior to entering IB
- Students interested in learning a language other than Spanish will be required to complete online courses through ManageBac to fulfill the foreign language requirement for IB
- Language of instruction - courses are delivered in the response language; students engage in assessments in the language of the course and work towards acquiring a new language

The IB program at Fike High School strives to ensure students develop a language profile in their mother-tongue as well as in a secondary language. To ensure this,

- Language placement tests may be used for the correct placement of pre-IB students
- All IB teachers promote proper language standards and communication through oral and written commentary in both the native and secondary languages
- IB students are required to learn a foreign language, completing 3 levels before entering the IB program in order to fulfill the requirement of multilingualism
- Engage in resources in and out of the classroom to develop language skills and communicate these opportunities to parents to support their students
- Access accommodations will be provided for students requiring these to ensure inclusion and equity of access to the full IB curriculum
- Instructional strategies and expectations will be reviewed yearly and revised as needed

The Rights of the Parent of an IB Student:

- Upon request, our school system provides translation services
- Interpreters are available in multiple languages such as Spanish, French, and Arabic
- Documentation and information is also available upon request
    - Many items and forms on our county website are written in Spanish and English
- Digital resources such as google translate are also utilized as needed