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Language Policy

Coral Reef recognizes the importance of language as it is fostered throughout our curriculum. All teachers regardless of subject area taught are, in practice, language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication. Language instruction, world languages, and the encouragement of the “mother tongue” is evident throughout our campus. Language is integrated into all facets of the curriculum as it endorses the importance of culture, diversity, and sensitivity to others. Students are to learn at least one language in addition to their mother tongue. In order to implement this, Coral Reef’s Foreign Language Department offers Group 2 courses in French, Spanish, and German. Except for the entry level courses, prerequisites are required for proper course sequencing. At a minimum, three consecutive years of the same world language must be taken in order to sit for an IB exam, however 4 years of foreign language study is strongly recommended. Coral Reef understands there are circumstances which are not static, so Coral Reef’s language policy needs to be dynamic and flexible so that it can evolve with the changing needs of the school population.

The language in which the IB Diploma Programme is delivered is English (A1). The IB Programme is open to all students based on pre-requisites, acceptable grade point average in Middle School, and an overall admission review. Students who are not native English speakers are not refused admission. For those students, whose native language is not English, we offer English Language Learners the skills and resources necessary to acquire the knowledge needed to be successful in the programme. Support is offered to our students and their families to help them become acclimated to a learning environment in a new, unfamiliar language. It is imperative that these practices are in place to provide inclusion and equity of access to the IB Diploma Programme. Coral Reef encourages the maintenance of the mother tongue by encouraging students and families to continue speaking, reading and writing the language at home. Mother tongue language support is offered through various student groups on campus, for example, the French and Spanish Honor Societies as well as the German, Hispanic Heritage, and Asian Clubs. Coral Reef is fortunate to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the German Embassy. Our district has developed a German International Studies (IS) program that begins in First Grade at Sunset Elementary. Students continue in a group to Carver Middle School and then have direct articulation into the Coral Reef IB Diploma Programme. Upon entering Coral Reef, students in the 9th and 10th grade take a German Humanities course in which the course is taught entirely in German. This class is taken in addition to the regularly scheduled German Foreign Language class.

IB German at Coral Reef has two tracks. SL is generally for students from an IE (International Education) middle school program; they take German 4, Advanced Placement German, then IB German SL (two-year sequence). This same group of students take the Duales System Deutschland (DSD) I exams. To date, we have 100% passing rate on IB SL German.

The German HL (two-year sequence) is generally for students from an IS program: 1st-5th grade at Sunset Elementary School and 6th-8th grade at Carver Middle School. This group of students takes the Duales System Deutschland (DSD) II exams. To date, we have a 100% passing rate on the DSD II and 100% passing rate on the IB HL exams.

Coral Reef's Foreign Language Department has adopted the Vision and Mission of The Miami Dade County Public Schools' Division of Bilingual Education and World Languages. Their philosophy is to encompass programs whose ultimate goals are to produce students who can communicate orally and in writing in English and in another language with proficiency commensurate with their experiential and educational level, age, and interests and who can interact effectively with groups using those languages. Their Mission is: To provide curriculum leadership and instructional support for the development of literacy in English and other languages to positively impact student achievement and promote lifelong learning. Coral Reef and the Division of Bilingual Education and World Languages' Core Values include: the fostering of diverse perspectives, the promotion of multilingualism, ensuring students equal access to educational opportunities, and the preparation of students to function in today's competitive global market.

Interdisciplinary teaching is evident in our Foreign Language department, when students relate what they are reading in Spanish with, for example, their History or Science class. This is enforced especially with Oral Examination preparation which requires students to select a topic related to Hispanic culture, history or literature. Coral Reef students have worked with a broad list of topics including art, history, ecology, and technological inventions.

Coral Reef recognizes that administrators, teachers, and other school staff require professional development in the fields of language learning and teaching. All teachers who have Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in their classrooms are impacted by the Multicultural Education Training Advocacy, Inc. (META) training requirement. The degree of training to meet the instructional needs of LEP students is tied to the teaching assignment.

The Language Policy is reviewed on a yearly basis (last reviewed in August 2025) and is communicated to stakeholders through the IB page of the Coral Reef website.