



International Baccalaureate® Language Policy

The rationale for the International Baccalaureate® (herein referred to as IB) language policy as stated in the IB Language Policy Information (February 2014).

Northfield High School, an International Baccalaureate® Candidate School, offers a progressive, challenging and exciting academic program. In addition to the core curriculum, the school offers a full array of electives, athletics, clubs and activities. Once authorized, all students will have access to the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. We promote an inclusive school community that encourages student creativity, self-awareness, independence, and collaboration among students with different interests.

Northfield High School offers English IB Language & Literature at both the standard and higher levels (SL and HL). These courses are offered to all students regardless of language background. We will also offer English B as second language option as necessary. This will be determined by our student and community needs. In addition, Northfield scholars will have the choice within the IB Group 2 to take SL/HL Mandarin Chinese, SL/HL Spanish, and SL/HL French. We anticipate that although some native Spanish speakers come to SL Spanish with some proficiency, most students are novices to these language choices.

Northfield High School believes that our students and their individual needs are a top priority. We have a very diverse population and while a majority of our students speak English, many speak additional languages; predominantly Spanish. Consistent with the IB philosophy, Northfield is committed to providing additional supports for students whose language background is any other than English. This commitment will encourage continued diversity within the IB Diploma Programme.

Northfield High School embraces the philosophy that all educators are responsible for facilitating communication with students. This includes a commitment to:

- IB training for all IB instructors.
- providing information in a variety of languages and approaches.
- providing instruction to our students in ways that help our students to learn, regardless of potential language barriers.
- help our faculty and larger school community to provide multiple pathways for success in IB and all programs at Northfield.
- an “IB Access for All” approach for the student body.

Northfield High School embraces a broad and diverse student body. To foster a philosophy inclusion, supports and mentoring will be provided for students who speak a language other than English. This commitment will ensure equal access and opportunities for success within all programs at Northfield. As we fully develop our program, we will continue to strongly encourage involvement in after school extra-curricular athletics and activities, clubs, and CAS opportunities. Northfield fully understands that these are powerful ways to become engaged in cross cultural and international mindedness of all our students.

Northfield High School understands that English is the higher level language discipline and that it is essential that all our students, regardless of their native tongue, feel confident and comfortable speaking, writing and listening in English. This will empower students to be productive and engaged citizens not only in the United States, but globally.

Northfield High School will continue to make every effort to provide access to written and digital materials in languages other than English. Parent and student conferences are facilitated to maximize communication in every possible way.

Northfield High School is fully committed to the educational and academic success of every student. We pledge to provide a supportive and encouraging atmosphere which all of our students can reach for success in not only high school, but in post-secondary options. We commit to reach out to all members of our community whose native tongue is a language other than English, and to encourage and support them as they pursue programs of study that will provide them with access to success both within and beyond high school.

Northfield High School will communicate this language policy on the NHS website and shall be available upon request through the Diploma Coordinator and team leaders.

Northfield High School will initiate a yearly review of this language policy. The parties involved in the review include the IB Diploma Programme faculty, IB Coordinator, and school administration.