



**International**  
Baccalaureate Programme  
Tri-County International Academy

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## **Tri-County International Academy International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Policy for Students, Families and Staff**

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### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Tri-County International Academy IB Programme serves a junior and senior student population and a community with diverse language needs and experiences. We welcome all students, and we continually strive to create a learning environment that validates diverse language backgrounds while preparing students to enter the global marketplace. In support of our mission, our school and faculty:

- Recognize that all teachers, regardless of content area, are language teachers
- Prepare all students to be fluent in English
- Encourage students to pursue competency in multiple languages
- Foster an environment where all languages and cultures are appreciated and valued
- Assist students in maintaining and developing their mother tongues whenever possible
- Utilize instructional materials that integrate multicultural and diverse perspectives

### **PROFILE**

Students attending the Tri-County International Academy represent a diversity of language needs and experiences. Examples of the population that we serve include:

- Mother tongue English students with limited or no exposure to a Language B
- Mother tongue English students with some exposure to a Language B experience through a primary school, middle school, or ninth and tenth grade high school course of study
- Bilingual Hispanic students who have acquired both English and Spanish since birth
- Bilingual students of English and another language (German).

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## **LANGUAGE A**

The Tri-County International Academy offers a strong, engaging Language A curriculum in the English language.

## **LANGUAGE B**

The Tri-County International Academy has implemented a Language B program that allows students the opportunity to achieve proficiency in one or more second languages.

## **DIPLOMA PROGRAM (DP)**

The DP at the Tri-County International Academy offers students a strong, engaging Language B curriculum that leads students to communicative competency and that prepares students for the Standard Level, and Higher Level Language B exams in French and also the ab initio, Standard Level and Higher Level Language B exams in Spanish.

## **MOTHER TONGUE SUPPORT**

The Tri-County International Academy is committed to the continued support and development of students' mother tongues. Whenever it would become necessary we are committed to provide resources in an effort to carry out that commitment.

## **INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS**

The Tri-County International Academy is dedicated to developing intercultural awareness and international mindedness amongst its students. Our media specialist ensures that we have plenty of intercultural books and resources available for student checkout and reference. Our media center and school often highlight cultures from around the world throughout the school year. We also offer students access to databases and other online reference sites in order to research culture and languages from around the world.

Students of the Tri-County International Academy actively participate in the "Friendship Connection" which is a reciprocal school visitation program that hosts and sends students between cities in Ohio and cities in Germany. We also support and send students to various countries through the Rotary Student Exchange Program.

## **LINKS TO OTHER WORKING DOCUMENTS**

The Tri-County International Academy makes every effort to ensure that our Language Policy incorporates all the needed information that students, parents, and teachers would need in order to be successful in the IB DP program at our school.

## **EVALUATION OF LANGUAGE POLICY**

The Tri-County International Academy accepts its Language Policy as a living document that is continuously evaluated and modified to conform with the ever-changing needs of our students, parents, teachers, and community. The Program Director, in concert with the Head of School, works with all of our stakeholders to identify and recognize concerns. Once concerns are identified, a committee of stakeholders would be consulted to bring about a consensus leading to a modification or complete change in an area of our Language Policy.

## **THE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LANGUAGE POLICY**

The Tri-County International Academy uses a committee made up of a Program Director, Head of School, all of our faculty, Parent representatives, and Student representatives using the guidelines of the International Baccalaureate to develop our Language Policy.

## **LANGUAGE POLICY REVISION TIMELINE**

The Tri-County International Academy plans to evaluate our Language Policy on an annual basis. The Committee will meet at the conclusion of each school year and, if appropriate, will make revisions that will take effect the following school year.

## **COMMUNICATION OF LANGUAGE POLICY**

The Tri-County International Academy intends to communicate our Language Policy through all of our interactions with the school community. The policy will be discussed at each of our recruitment meeting, through our printed information and posted on our website.