

LANGUAGE PROFILE/LANGUAGE POLICY

Reviewed April, 2018

IB Philosophy for Languages at Port Moody Secondary

At Port Moody Secondary School, we value Modern Languages as it enriches and promotes a more global and international mindedness approach for students, challenging them to become active participants in a highly competitive global environment.

As Port Moody Secondary is located in the municipality of Port Moody within the Metro Vancouver area of British Columbia, the primary language used for instruction is English. Canada has two official languages – English and French.

With English as the Group 1 language of instruction, French makes up one of the four additional languages offered in Group 2. Close to 50% of the IB Diploma students are enrolled in the IB French program courses.

The other languages offered in Group 2 are Spanish, Mandarin, and Japanese. As Spanish is one of the official IB languages, many students choose to enroll in this language since much of the United States, countries in Central America and South America speak Spanish.

As we are located along the Pacific Rim, the importance of languages for the purpose of trade and commerce is paramount to the success of our students. Thus, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese are also offered as Group 2 courses. There has been an increase in interest in learning Mandarin Chinese over the past 10 years with the global significance of China both politically and economically.

A steering committee has been formed to gather input from the learning community which includes parents, students, and staff. The steering committee will use this input to guide and shape discussions about best practices and ways to encourage students to view their language acquisition as a lifelong learning process.

There are 52 additional languages spoken in addition to English by students who attend Port Moody. Although we have a significant presence of Korean students, we encourage students to try out a new language to allow them to be challenged and for their future benefit.

We have enrichment through language clubs that allow students to learn and practice a language with the assistance of peers and with peer tutors. There are also various community heritage schools that students may enroll in order to help students learn their mother tongue or alternative language.

The four languages offered are the only Group 2 courses offered at Port Moody. There is an opportunity for further discussion on delivery methods for other Group 2 requirements through discussion with the IB coordinator. Processes can be considered to offer the ab initio course depending on the students' language capacity and the ability to schedule them into a balanced timetable. We continue to explore the options of offering self-taught languages at Port Moody, but remain committed to supporting the language programs currently on offer.

The aim of our language courses is to enrich students in a new language that is different from their mother tongue. Our languages, French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Japanese, reflect our geographical location, culture, and proximity to Pacific Rim countries.