

# **Jack Yates HS Preliminary IB Language Policy**

## **In Support of the IB Mission**

The Learner Profile is an integral part of who we are and what we do daily. We emphasize being Communicators – IB Learners at Yates should be able to communicate in at least two different languages. Students who possess more than one mother tongue are encouraged to explore proficiency in an additional language. Language acquisition at our school promotes the understanding and appreciation of one's own culture and their place within the global community.

## **The Role of Language at Jack Yates HS**

In HISD, literacy is defined as the ability to read, write, listen, speak, and think effectively. Consequently, language plays a critical role on our campus. As a DP Candidate school, we take this responsibility seriously. It is widely recognized that ALL of the educators in our school are teachers of language. To that end, language initiatives are not only implemented in our Language A and B offerings but across all subject areas. District-wide, students are recommended to spend between 20%-25% of their time engaged in integrated literacy strategies to support content specific learning.

## **Multicultural Aspects of Jack Yates HS**

The language of instruction is English at Jack Yates High School; however, our campus reflects a multitude of racial/ethnic backgrounds. As a result, Yates places emphasis on supporting the cultures and mother tongues of the students who attend our school.

- Strategies for retention and development of the mother tongue and culture include:
- Written and electronic resources in available in various languages in library
- Established ELL Support Department
- School website translates into over 40 different languages
- Written communication translated into languages other than English
- Access to Houston ISD Multilingual Support Department.
- Cultural displays
- Connections to community resources
- Mentor Pairings

## **English as a Second Language (ESL) Program at Jack Yates HS**

Yates' Limited English Proficient (LEP) population makes up 4.6% of the total school enrollment. Students with limited English who enroll at Yates High School enter at various levels of proficiency.

## **Sustaining Language Acquisition**

In order to encourage and support the continued development of proficiency in a non-mother tongue, we will provide a variety of languages in our instructional offerings, as well as, also ensuring

that these courses are taught in a sustained progression to promote concurrency of learning. This progression will prepare our students for further study in the IB Diploma Programme.

<b>Language Acquisition Courses Offered at Jack Yates High School</b>
Spanish I & II
English I, II,III,& IV
*IB Spanish SL *upon authorization

**References:**

*IB Language Policy Document*

*Height High School Language Policy*