

Natrona County High School IB Diploma Programme Language Policy

Natrona County High School Diploma Programme Language Policy Philosophy

Natrona County High School (NCHS) recognizes that the study of language is the foundation for all learning and that effective and rigorous language curriculum is crucial to all students. Language study develops international understanding, reinforces cultural identity, enhances personal growth, and builds effective communication skills. Ongoing language development for our students is the shared responsibility of all teachers, staff, parents, and students. We pledge to provide challenging curriculum, differentiated instruction, and diverse learning experiences for all students.

NCHS Language Profile

English is the primary language of instruction at NCHS. Approximately 97% of our students speak English at home. A majority of the remaining 3% speak Spanish, but there are also other languages such as Ukranian. All instruction and assessments are delivered in English with the exception of language acquisition courses, and all IB Diploma students are required to take English Literature HL as their Language A requirement.

Language Acquisition

All NCHS students are provided the opportunity to learn a second language or American Sign Language (ASL). Our district provides opportunities for beginning levels of Spanish, German, Latin, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and ASL at various elementary and middle schools throughout the district. At NCHS, students can begin or continue with studies of Spanish, French, Russian, and ASL. Our IB Programme at NCHS offers the opportunity for students to test in Spanish and French at either Standard or Higher Level with at least four years of study, or Russian at the ab initio level with at least two years of study. Testing in German SL is being phased out with the last exam in May 2020.

Language Practices

At both our district middle schools and at NCHS, English language instruction is offered at three levels: basic for students with learning disabilities, regular, and advanced/honors. Students who intend to pursue the IB Diploma are encouraged to begin taking advanced/honors level English at the earliest opportunity.

Mother Tongue Support

We acknowledge the importance of a student's mother tongue in promoting personal identity and maintaining cultural heritage. Our library maintains Spanish Language materials in support of a student's continued use of the mother tongue.

Support for Student who are not proficient in English

NCHS has a full-time ESL instructor to assist English language learners in the acquisition of an English language education.