



# Highland Park High School Highland Park Middle School Language Policy



## Saint Paul Public Schools

The mission and vision of multilingual learning for Saint Paul Public Schools is to provide an education for language learners, with long-range goals for language proficiency, strong foundations, community engagement, and collaborative success. The aim is for all students to become multilingual, and culturally proficient.

Every student...

- Proficient in a least two languages, with a strong foundation in academic knowledge, communication skills and cultural understanding
- Proud of their own cultural heritage, with a clear appreciation for the many cultures which compose the richness of our community
- Challenged, supported and inspired to graduate to something great

Every family...

- Welcomed in a language they understand, by staff who embrace the wealth of diversity within our schools
- Empowered with the knowledge and tools to nurture their children's academic success.
- Sharing their cultural heritage with their school, community and district-wide.

Our community...

- Stronger for the gifts that we collectively contribute to the education of our children
- Richer in well prepared, linguistically diverse and culturally proficient graduates
- Prepared to create a bright future together

## Highland Park

Highland Park Middle School and Highland Park High School share the Saint Paul Public Schools vision of language learning and recognizes that language is central to learning and believes all teachers are teachers of language. To that end, in conjunction with our school district, Highland Park Middle and Highland Park High School have undergone professional development centering around English Language Learner (ELL) strategies and Approaches to Learning (ATL) strategies and continue to stay informed in best practices around reading, writing, speaking and listening strategies in all disciplines.

## Multilingual Learners (MLL)

Saint Paul Public Schools has recently transformed the former English Language Learners (ELL) department and now renamed it as the Multilingual Learners department. We believe that our MLL students, being multilingual, are assets in our schools. Our MLL students receive English learning support in co-taught classes with both an MLL teacher and the teacher expert in that subject area. If an MLL student needs additional support there are reading and writing support courses offered in grades 6-12. All MLL students participate fully in the MYP. Our MLL teachers use the Language Acquisition/Language B rubrics as well as the Language and Literature/Language A rubrics.

At the district level students are placed on an MLL continuum based on individual proficiency. Students at the lower level of the continuum may attend MLL classes daily. As proficiency increases, students receive less direct MLL support until they are exited from the program. Families of MLL students have the option to waive ELL services. Students exercising this option do not receive ELL programming.

## **Language Acquisition/Language B**

Learning an additional language brings about an increase of self and peer cultural awareness and develops a mindset that values multilingualism and international mindedness. Language Acquisition instruction supports the MYP mission and its mission in action, the IB Learner Profile. All Language Acquisition classes meet every school day for the entirety of the school. At Highland Park Middle and Senior High Schools, three Language Acquisition options are offered: Chinese, French, and Spanish. Chinese and Spanish Immersion students can also choose to study French, Spanish or Chinese and begin the acquisition of a third, fourth or even fifth language, depending on the home language/s of the student. Students are expected to follow the same language throughout the Middle Years Program in order to continue their study of language at the Standard Level or High Level in the IB Diploma Program.

## **Language Immersion Opportunities**

Some students enter Highland Park Middle School from one of three Spanish Immersion elementary schools offering either one- way or dual immersion programs or one Chinese Immersion elementary school offering a one-way immersion program in grades K-5. Highland Park Middle School students in the Spanish Immersion program study the Sciences, Mathematics, Individuals and Societies, and Language and Literature in either English or Spanish. Highland Park Middle School students in the Chinese Immersion program study the Sciences and Language Arts in Chinese. Their remaining classes are in English.

Some students enter Highland Park High School from the Spanish and Chinese immersion programs from Highland Park Middle school and a Chinese Immersion charter school. At Highland Park Senior High, students can study the Individuals and Societies in either English or Spanish Immersion in grades 9 and 10. Students can study Language and Literature in either English or Spanish in grades 11 and 12. Students in Spanish Immersion complete their MYP Personal Project in Spanish.

## **Certificate and Seals of Bilingualism**

Saint Paul Public Schools leads the nation in recognizing students who can speak, read, and write multiple languages by offering Certificates and Seals of Bilingualism on high school diplomas, which can lead to college credit from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Students may earn the Certificate or Seal by taking an International Baccalaureate (IB) Language test.

## **Readers and Writers Workshop**

Students at Highland Park Middle School experience the Readers and Writers workshop model in grades 6, 7, and 8. The workshop model of instruction allows choice for students, time for individual and group instruction, and for all students to be engaged in learning no matter their reading level.

## **Languages of Communication**

The main language of communication with our families and communities is English, yet Saint Paul Public Schools will also translate communication materials for our families in Somali, Hmong, Spanish, and Karen. We can receive SPPS support in translation of other documents in languages outside of those mentioned. Students in SPPS speak more than 100 languages and dialects, and Highland Park Middle School and Highland Park Senior High uses Campus (Student Management System) to assist us in recognizing the students' native languages so that we can further communicate with the students and their families. SPPS also has district and building translators in Somali, Hmong, Spanish, and Karen.

## **Data Teams/Data Cycle**

Teachers work in Data Teams to analyze the learning outcomes and assessment results of all of our students. Literacy and language development is frequently an area of focus for our teachers as they continue to analyze and understand student results and work to improve the teaching and learning strategies in the classrooms.

## **Language Policy Development**

The School Language Policy for Highland Park Middle School and Highland Park Senior High is available to all staff, students, and families on both of the schools' websites. This policy will be reviewed and refined on an ongoing basis so as to reflect our schools' development and evolution within the International Baccalaureate framework and the Saint Paul Public Schools' mission and vision.

*Last Updated: May 18, 2020*