



WEST BAY SCHOOL

Language Philosophy and Policy
2010, 2014
Updated and Revised by School Staff
2020

West Bay's Mission Statement

"In an atmosphere of mutual respect West Bay inspires, encourages and challenges students to become active, compassionate lifelong learners within their local and global communities."

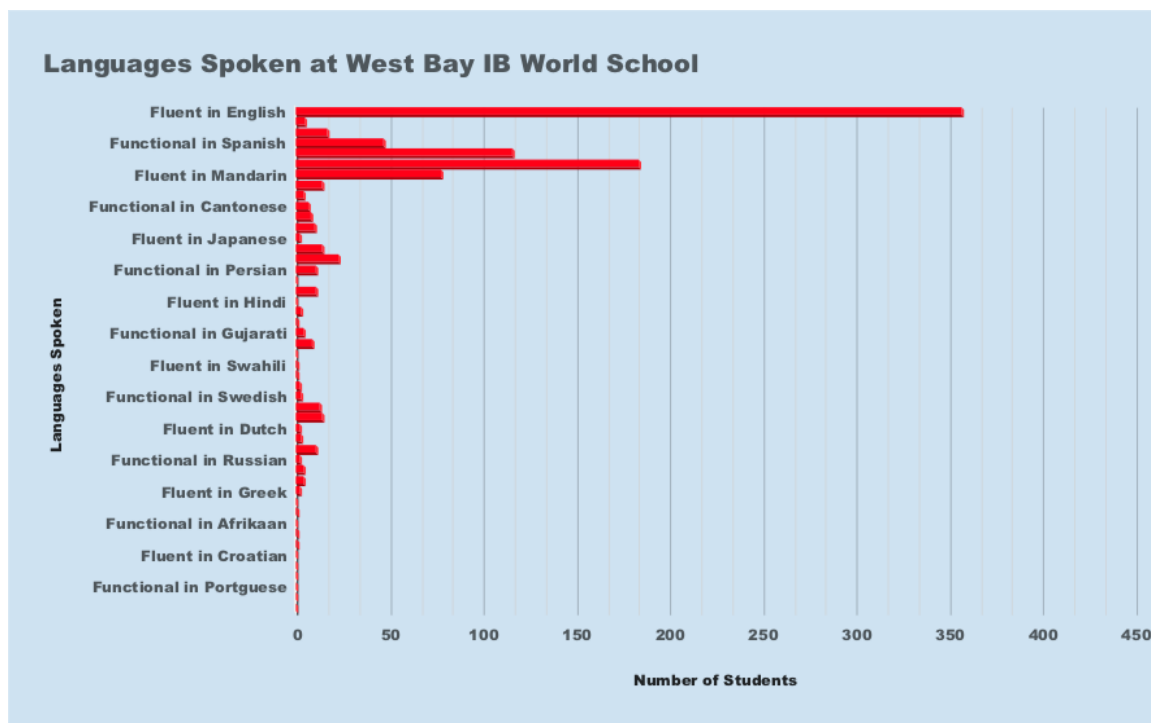
Language Profile of West Bay:

The language profiles of the students were researched and discussed with each class in 2019. Students reported on the languages that represented them. They determined their level of proficiency by categorizing as either fluent or functional.

English= 370 Students

Mardarin= 70 students

Other: Spanish, Cantonese, Japanese, Farsi, Hindi, Gujarati, Swahili, Swedish, Dutch, Russian, Greek, Afrikaan, Croatian, Arabic, and Portuguese





WEST BAY SCHOOL

Language Philosophy

At West Bay, we value diversity. We know that language diversity develops international mindedness within our school community. Through sharing our personal cultural identity we strive to understand who we are in a changing global world. We are open-minded and celebrate the languages represented at West Bay. We understand that language is a vehicle for appreciating diversity and that language connects us.

We believe that all students have the ability to achieve their language potential. As a result, it is our responsibility at West Bay to meet the students where they are at and to acknowledge that students learn at different rates, at different times and by different means.

We believe that through consistent and early exposure to other languages, one's ability to learn will be more successful. Language is a vehicle to communicate and can take many forms and be done in many places. We believe it is the responsibility of all stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, specialists, and administration, to support the language development of all children.

Support for Translanguaging and Student Language Profiles

At West Bay, we work to honour all students' languages. We support students conversing in any language and encourage translanguaging. We do this by encouraging students to:

- Read books in their own language
- Speak in their own language
- Write in their own language
- Translanguage with word substitutions

At West Bay, we feel it is our responsibility to not only support the language profiles of the student but provide language services to families. We do this by:

- Bringing in translators to help families (SWIS workers)
- Providing IB documents in different languages when available
- Having a visual presence of different languages around West Bay
- Inviting families to share stories, share celebrations, cultural events when authentic and relevant such as Norooz, Lunar New Year, Dawali, and Ramadan
- Creating translations of important documents for families (Communicating Student Learning documents, safety practices, etc)
- Asking families to bring in books to be shared in our library and in the classrooms that support language profile development
- Celebrating International Mother Language Day yearly
- Making available books in our library in a variety of languages



WEST BAY SCHOOL

- Providing support from an English Language Teacher for the first 5-6 years of English language learning
- Sharing with parents our language policy, structures to support language learning in the home and at school, and resources available
- Planning time with French Specialists and the IB Coordinator
- English language teacher works with teachers to plan for language learning

Learning of the host country/regional language and culture

At West Bay, we acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Wa chexw yuu. We strive to learn Indigenous greetings and acknowledge the land in which we learn. We commit to helping students understand and appreciate Canadian culture and, in doing so, we recognize that being Canadian celebrates a culture full of diversity. At West Bay, we strive to help students learn English. We support students' understanding of cultural norms to help them participate in their local community. We support all students' French language learning from Kindergarten.

Resources that support the policy

At West Bay, we strive to provide access to a variety of resources. With adult support and guidance, this includes:

- Full access to age-appropriate internet sites and databases
- Print resources to foster love of learning across disciplines both fiction and non-fiction
- Print resources that support learning at all age levels and abilities
- Technologies that allow students to communicate with the global world such as Freshgrade, *Skype for Education *Google Classroom
- Technologies that support language development such as Duolingo, Google Translate, Read/Write Google, RAZ Kids, Words their Way, etc

***with adult support and guidance**

Synergy between policies

The Language Policy connects to our Special Education Needs and Inclusion policy as we understand it is the school's responsibility to meet the child where they are at. The language of the school promotes and acknowledges the diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and ways of being.

Teachers at West Bay strive to develop a caring language community. We want all students to feel accepted and confident and that they will be supported by others. We want our students to feel safe and confident to take risks.