

Concord High School Language Policy

Concord High School, a public high school focused on empowering students through literacy, will develop, reinforce, and enrich students' abilities to function, communicate, and contribute in a 21st century global society.

English is the language of instruction at Concord High School for all courses except Language B courses. Students complete four levels of English instruction spanning the four years of high school. English comprehension strategies and communication skills are embedded in every course and taught by all teachers.

Support of the Mother Tongue

At Concord High School, all teachers are literacy teachers in their courses and in a literacy block, Spider Connections, where students receive differentiated instruction to assist in language acquisition. Spider Connections was created to assist students in communications skills needed in the 21st century. During this block, students develop reading skills and reinforce and enrich oral perspectives. Spider Connections meets daily for 30 minutes. Through a literacy grant teachers are receiving monthly professional development.

Students who are emerging readers receive intensive strategies such as *Extreme Reading* and *Strategic Instruction Model* to acquire basic reading skills. Students in these level 1 Spider Connection blocks can then apply these skills in each course. Some of these students also receive additional blocks of English through "High School Success," a course aimed at teaching basic English skills to low performing students who are not Exceptional Children. Our Exceptional Children may receive additional literacy support through curriculum assistance courses that seek to support each course the student is taking.

Students who are proficient readers learn strategies such as LINC'S and word mappings that can be applied to their course work and SAT/ACT/curriculum based vocabulary words. These students are given the option of challenging themselves through honors and AP courses at the freshmen and sophomore level and then AP courses or IB diploma courses as a junior or senior.

All students are tested twice yearly to monitor growth in reading comprehension. At the end of the year, students take a literacy assessment, TOSCRF, which measures growth and places students in Spider Connections for the following year.

All students use content enhancement routines such as course and unit organizers, concept maps and thinking maps.

All MYP students are enrolled in Civilization and Cultures I and II which integrate English and Humanities. These courses are taught by two teachers who have common planning and work to integrate the content in their specific area. All MYP teachers collaborate to integrate disciplines and focus on English communication through written and oral skills.

English Language Learner (ELL) Services

All students enrolling at Concord High must complete an enrollment survey informing CHS of the language primarily spoken in the home. If the parents and student primarily speak a language other than English, the student takes an English as a Second Language test to see if services are needed. If a student does need support in English acquisition, the student receives services through the Cabarrus County Schools. These services may include ESL classes where English acquisition is the focus, ESL consultation where the ESL teacher is a resource for the student, or ESL monitoring where the ESL teacher maintains contact with the student's teachers and provides support as needed.

Students identified as ESL are tested yearly using the ACCESS test required by the state of North Carolina. Students place out of services once proficient on the test.

If a student whose Language A is not English enrolls in the DP, the school will request authorization to teach school supported, self-taught courses in the student's native tongue if available or as a special request course if the school supported, self-taught option is not available in the student's mother tongue. If a student enrolls in these courses, CHS will purchase resources to assist the student in the language study.

Language B

Students enrolled at Concord High School may study Chinese, French or Spanish. Students enrolling with Language B experience in middle school will continue in the study of that language. If a student is exposed to a language at home or in the community, a placement test will be given so the student is enrolled in the correct phase of the language. All students wishing to enroll in a four year university are required to take at least two levels of Language B. All MYP students continue their study of Chinese or Spanish during 9th and 10th grade. MYP language B courses are taught in Chinese or Spanish and concentrate on written and oral communication in those languages. When entering the DP, students may continue their study of Chinese or Spanish testing at either the SL for Chinese or the SL or HL for Spanish, and students new to language study may begin their Language B studies with French ab initio. All DP language B courses are taught over a two year period.

Parent Communication

Concord High understands the need to communicate with parents in a language they can understand. Currently, written and oral communication to parents is sent in both English and Spanish throughout Cabarrus County Schools. The International Studies program currently serves families where English is the mother tongue but will translate informational documents into other languages for parents if needed.

Resources

The Concord High Media Center currently houses fiction and non-fiction books in Spanish and French and is building a library of Mandarin Chinese books. Databases used in research are available in Spanish,

French and Chinese. The Media Specialist has increased the collection of international authors to provide diverse perspectives to students.