



*Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy  
Joseph C. Wilson Commencement Academy  
Providing a World Class Education*



## Language Policy- Middle Years Programme

### Language Policy Statement

Our Wilson community recognizes the importance of preparing our students for the global economy and interdependent world and therefore offers a second language continuum from grades 7 to 10. We encourage our students to gain competence in a modern language other than their mother tongue with a long term goal of bilingualism. Our language A (mother tongue) at Wilson is English and we offer two language B choices- Spanish and French.

### Language A

Language A is generally defined as the student's mother tongue or the language in which he/she has achieved the level of proficiency near the native speaker. Students have five lessons a week of language A. In addition to this, following New York state guidelines, all core teachers are expected to provide language A instruction and development within the content area to ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy. Students must learn to read, write, speak, listen, and use language A effectively in a variety of content areas.

### Language B

Wilson acknowledges that learning additional languages greatly contributes to the holistic development of students. Proficiency in a second language gives students access to a broader range of input, experiences and perspectives, and is believed to raise achievement in other subject areas, as well as giving the student the enjoyment of being able to communicate in a language other than his or her mother tongue. Students have the option of deciding which language B they want to pursue before entering MYP level 2. They are expected to follow the same language until the last year (MYP level 5) in order to take the standard language B course in the Diploma Program. Students who enter in the middle of the program are expected to choose and pursue the same language B for the remainder of the program. These students will be given the option of summer work to complete the language B requirements necessary for entering into the Diploma Program or they may complete the Spanish or French Ab Initio.

### ELL Program

Following the RCSD guidelines, Wilson's mission is to support and enhance the education of students who are English language learners toward becoming life-long learners and productive citizens capable of succeeding in an increasingly interdependent world. We aim to educate all students to meet or exceed NYS academic language A standards with language B as their mother tongue. All content teachers recognize that learning in a second language is a challenge, so they also focus on building key vocabulary necessary for successful completion of each course. Students are encouraged to use the language of instruction whenever possible. If they find it difficult, accommodations are provided such as extended time, use of translating dictionary and assistance from the ELL teacher.

## Special Educational Needs Program

Wilson will follow all mandated NYS Special Education Needs policies in regards to a student's ability to acquire a new language as outlined on his/her IEP.

## Professional Development

Wilson teachers are expected to stay current with the latest IB MYP curriculum development, the national common core standards, as well as the latest trends in language instruction. Teachers will be provided with regular opportunities to participate in IB sponsored training.

# Language Policy- Diploma Programme

## Language Policy Statement

Our Wilson community recognizes the importance of preparing our students for the global economy and interdependent world and therefore offers a second language continuum from grades 11 and 12. We encourage our students to gain competence in a modern language other than their mother tongue with a long term goal of bilingualism. Our language A (mother tongue) at Wilson is English and we offer two language B choices- Spanish and French.

## Language A

Language A is generally defined as the student's mother tongue or the language in which he/she has achieved the level of proficiency near the native speaker. Wilson's Diploma Programme offers IB HL Language A. Students have five lessons a week of language A: Literature over a two-year period (Junior and Senior year). Students must learn to read, write, speak, listen, and use language A effectively in a variety of content areas to facilitate communication.

## Language B

Wilson acknowledges that learning additional languages greatly contributes to the holistic development of students. Proficiency in a second language gives students access to a broader

range of input, experiences and perspectives, and is believed to raise achievement in other subject areas, as well as giving the student the enjoyment of being able to communicate in a language other than his or her mother tongue. Students are expected to follow the same language until the last year (MYP level 5) in order to take the standard level language B course in that language in the Diploma Programme. Students who enter in the middle of the Middle Years Programme are expected to choose and pursue the same language B for the remainder of the program. These students will be given the option of summer work to complete the language B requirements necessary for entering into the Diploma Program Standard Level Language B courses. If students do not meet competency level requirements by passing the NYS Regents in Language B, they may complete the Spanish or French Ab Initio Standard Level courses offered in the Diploma Programme.

## ELL Program

Following the RCSD guidelines, Wilson's mission is to support and enhance the education of students who are English language learners toward becoming life-long learners and productive citizens capable of succeeding in an increasingly interdependent world. We aim to educate all students to meet or exceed NYS academic language A standards with language B as their mother tongue. All content teachers recognize that learning in a second language is a challenge, so they also focus on building key vocabulary necessary for successful completion of each course. Students are encouraged to use the language of instruction whenever possible. If they find it difficult, accommodations are provided such as extended time, use of translating dictionary and assistance from the ELL teacher. In an effort to maintain mother tongue development, Wilson will investigate the need for school-supported self-taught Language A on a need-only individualized basis.

## Special Educational Needs Program

Wilson will follow all mandated NYS Special Education Needs policies in regards to a student's ability to acquire a new language as outlined on his/her IEP.

## Professional Development

Wilson teachers are expected to stay current with the latest IB DP curriculum development, the national common core standards, as well as the latest trends in language instruction. Teachers will be provided with regular opportunities to participate in IB sponsored training.