

Hillside High School Language Policy

Committee:

The committee in charge of designing, revising this document as for the year 2019 - 2020 consists of a multidisciplinary team and HHS staff who represent the interests of the community. This committee and policy will be updated annually.

1. Principal
2. Diploma Programme Coordinator
3. Middle Years Programme Coordinator
4. District Director of ESL Services
5. IB DP PLT
6. World Language Department Chair/Spanish Teacher
7. French Teacher
8. Chinese Teacher
9. Arts Teacher

Definitions:

ELL: English Language Learners. Students whose first language is not English.

Language B: Language B is a language acquisition course designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. Students further develop their ability to communicate through the study of language, themes and texts. The Language B courses currently offered are Spanish, French and Chinese.

Philosophy

Hillside High School provides a comprehensive instructional program to meet the demands of its students. The school offers a limited number of Advanced Placement courses and the International Baccalaureate Programme. The school is also the site for a specialized Business and Finance Academy. North Carolina uses the Future Ready Core as our course of study and this requires students who follow the College/University Prep Course of Study under Future Ready Core to earn 2 credits in a second language. Our IB Programme, which is likened to a school within a school, gives IB students the opportunity to go above and beyond what is required.

As a school with an IB Middle Years and Diploma Programme, we see language development as a core piece of our students' learning. Hillside's leadership team chose to focus on vocabulary, summarizing and higher order thinking as a school to help students effectively communicate across all disciplines. This builds their language skills in English (the language of instruction at Hillside) Spanish, French and Mandarin. Our students are challenged in the IB English Literature course by taking the Higher Level coursework and in the Language B courses by completing level 5. Having a variety of diverse coursework

in four different languages provides a link to understanding cultural diversity and the global dynamics of the world around them. We can attract middle school students from the entire school district because of our lottery admissions process. However, we have a partner MYP school at Shepard Middle School

Language Profile

Hillside High School has a diverse population of students. The language of instruction at Hillside High School is English. This constitutes the majority of school linguistic background for over 70% of the population. The current enrollment is 1412 students of whom 317 students come from linguistic backgrounds other than English. The second most spoken language at school is Spanish. 291 of these students are Spanish speakers. 150 of these students are identified as English Learners.

This is a list of the languages spoken at HHS as per 2019/2020.

- English
- Spanish
- Arabic/Egyptian/Lebanese
- Igbo
- Swahili/Kiswahili
- Kishwahili/Kwa/Kitendo
- Bengali/Bangla
- Spanish
- Liberian English
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Otomi
- Haitian-Creole
- Grebo
- Kikuyu

Language A

Our Language A English Literature HL course develops students who are exposed to cultural texts with the ability to respond critically and thoughtfully in order to form their own literary judgements. By understanding literary techniques, the students in our Language A English Literature courses are prepared to communicate orally and in written form, and interpret literary works with ease. The texts in the literature course are chosen from 1. works in translation, 2. works written originally in English and 3. a free choice of works. Hillside High School traditionally has a 100% IB Exam pass rate in our Language A English Literature courses which shows our students are prepared for their post-secondary school options.

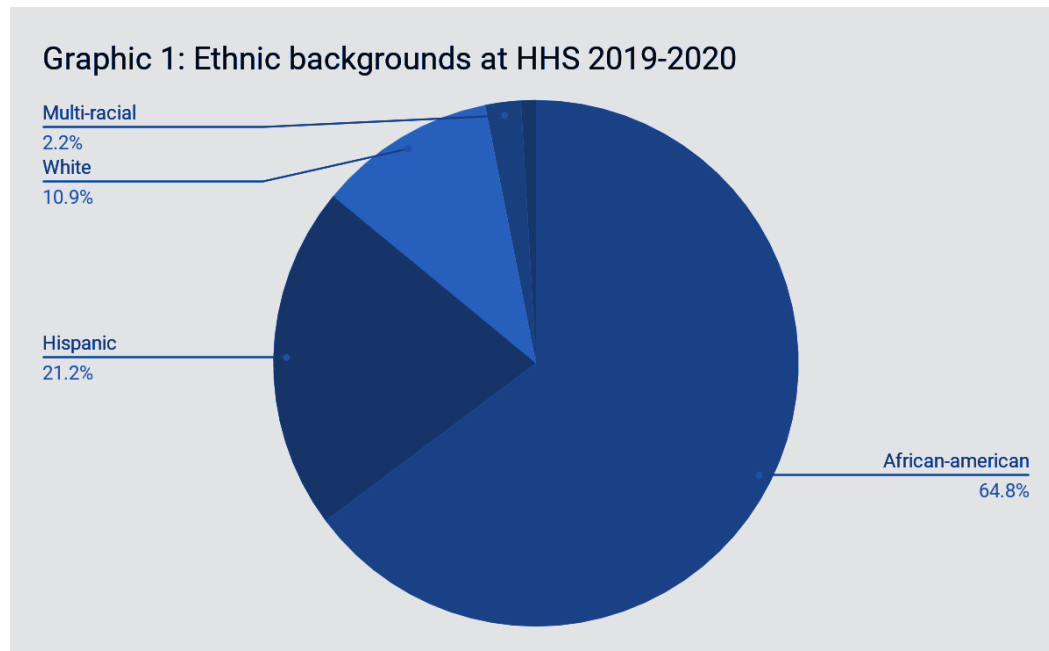
Language B

- **Language B:** As stated by the IB Language B Guide, “Language B language acquisition course designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. In the language B course, students further develop their ability to communicate in the target language through the study of language, themes and texts. In doing so, they also develop conceptual understandings of how language works, as appropriate to the level of the course.
- Language B courses are offered at Standard Level (SL) at Hillside High School.

PURPOSE OF THE LANGUAGE B. Source: Langua

Ethnic Backgrounds

For the year 2019-2020, as stated in the Hillside High School Profile “*Hillside High School 2019-20 School Profile CEEB Code: 341-055*” Hillside High School's current enrollment is **1412** students. The population in the school is distributed as follows:



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

There are 150 students identified as ELL which makes up 10.6% of our school population. As ELL students enter Durham Public Schools, they must go through an identification process. Federal and state policies require students who speak languages other than English, to be assessed for English Language Proficiency. Students who speak other languages are enrolled centrally after interviewing families to verify their dominant language. If their primary language is not English they are assessed on

the WIDA Screener to determine if they qualify for services. Students who are identified as EL take an annual assessment until they exit from ELL services. If they do not qualify, they may not receive services.

The purpose is to level the playing field by providing academic language support to ensure student success in their educational career.

Support for Native Language

Our district's ELL Resource Center offers support to parents and students in their native language through ELL Community Liaisons, with most being Spanish speakers. Hillside has at least one bilingual counselor, bilingual records specialist, and several Language B teachers who speak another language besides English. We also have support staff, such as custodial staff, whose native language is not English. ELL elective and English courses are offered based on placement testing during the enrollment process for identifying ELL students. In the past few years, the world language department has begun offering a Spanish Heritage class for native speakers to support them with their various levels of Spanish literacy.

Our school subscribes to the local Hispanic newspaper and most of the print magazines subscriptions have an online version of the magazine in which you can select many different options of language. Our media center resources for Language B include 77 titles in Spanish, 5 titles in French, and 5 digital titles in Chinese. Most of our IB promotional materials are printed in Spanish as well. Language dictionaries are available to students in their native languages. Our district ESL Department also ensures that we have access to translators during our districts Choice Fair where we promote IB to the public.

Other Opportunities for All Language Learners

- Our World Language department hosts an International Festival during the International Week festivities that allows students, teachers, and the community to explore our various diverse cultures.
- Hillside provides at least one opportunity per semester to expose our students to other cultures and heritages.
- Technology training for ESL students - Changing keyboard for languages
- Grant to purchase calligraphy pens for writing Chinese characters
- Scholarship for Spanish and French teachers to explore AP Spanish and AP French.