



## Language Policy: Green Valley High School

### **Philosophy:**

At Green Valley High School, we appreciate that our students have, and will acquire language skills in a variety of settings: home, school, community, and social media. We acknowledge that our students are diverse and come to us each day from distinct families who speak an array of languages. We value our students' language abilities at all levels and in any language.

### **English Instruction:**

Green Valley staff are dedicated to the development and improvement of students' command of English as a learning and communication tool as well as an expression of their identity.

All Green Valley teachers are teachers of English regardless of their specialist subjects. All subject teachers explicitly teach IB command terms, key subject vocabulary, and accurate use of spelling punctuation and grammar.

In our selection of classroom texts, we are sensitive to the variety of cultures represented in our student body and aim to explicitly encourage international mindedness.

### **Mother Tongue Support:**

Green Valley High School's faculty and staff acknowledge the importance of a student's mother tongue/home language in promoting personal identity and maintaining cultural heritage. We offer support for the preservation and development of a student's mother tongue by

- pairing the student with a more advanced student of the same mother tongue
- using teacher mentors who speak the same mother tongue
- partnering families with their children's schools through *FACES (Family and Community Engagement Services)* that was created in 2013 to assist with the district's commitment to the students and families of the Clark County School District.)
- providing school signage in Spanish (GVHS's most prevalent second language)
- using CCSD-provided translators for parent conferences/phone calls
- encouraging students to speak their mother tongue in informal and social situations
- promoting cultural and language identity support in after-school school clubs such as *Student Organization of Latinos; Spanish Honors Club; Polynesian Club; Muslim Student Association; Israel Club; Model United Nations; French Club; Black Student Union*

### **English Language Learners/ELL:**

In partnership with families and communities, the staff at Green Valley High School--in alignment with CCSD's vision for English language learners--provides "high quality, rigorous, engaging instruction in a supportive and safe learning environment that values all students' cultural and linguistic diversity so that they graduate college and career ready as bi-literate, productive, and global-minded citizens."<sup>1</sup>

### **Green Valley Language Instruction and Courses:**

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<sup>1</sup> Clark County School District's *Master Plan for English Language Learner Success--Overview* (2016)

The study of foreign language adds a dimension of enrichment that should be an academic experience. Since languages and cultures are not independent of themselves, studying a foreign language facilitates understanding of people and nations. Moreover, language study helps students view their own language and culture from new perspectives. It is recommended that students take no less than three uninterrupted years of the same language. The *Advanced Placement* and the *International Baccalaureate* courses at the fourth-year level allow students to focus on the *Advanced Placement* and the *International Baccalaureate* exams.

**Course Offerings/Grade Levels:**

Chinese 1/French 1/Spanish 1: 9--12

Chinese 2: 9-12

French 2 Honors: 9-12

Spanish 2 Honors: 9-12

Intermediate Spanish Literacy Honors: 9-12

Chinese 3 Honors: 10-12

French 3 Honors: 10-12

Spanish 3 Honors: 10-12

Spanish 3 Pre-AP: 10-12

Chinese Language AP/French Language AP/Spanish Language AP: 10-12

Advanced Spanish Literacy Honors: 10-12

Spanish 4 Honors: 11-12

Chinese 4 IB, French 4 IB, Spanish 4 IB