

## **Victory Charter Schools**

### **Language Policy**

At Victory Charter Schools (VCS) we believe that communication, whether in written or oral form, can connect people from around the world together. However, languages can have a disconnecting property to them as they create barriers to effective communication. At VCS we teach our students that language is not a divisive force, but a connective force. A true understanding of languages can provide students with the intellectual insight necessary to structure their communication so as to create effective connections with others.

The language policy at VCS is designed to introduce students to a wide range of cultures, concepts, and ideas while also providing them the skillset to use multiple languages to express ideas fluently and effectively.

At Victory Charter Schools, we are committed to providing equity of access for all our students. We promote an inclusive language learning environment. VCS recognizes the diverse cultural and linguistic background of our students and their families and is committed to providing an appropriate education for each of our students.

### **Primary Language of Instruction:**

English is the primary Language of instruction. VCS will offer English at both the higher and standard levels. The school will provide for inclusion and equity of access to our students, including English Language Learners and students with special needs.

- VCS provides additional support in English language acquisition for our English Language Learners (ELLs). Our school follows SDOC guidelines and has adopted the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) as its assessment for students' English language proficiency.
- Students assessed as entering, beginning, developing, or expanding receive classroom instruction in English for speakers of other languages.

### **Required Bilingual Language Program:**

In addition to the primary language of instruction, students also take a course in Spanish each year.

- All students are expected to become fully bilingual and bi-culturally aware by the time they graduate.
- The Foreign Language Program includes one mandatory foreign language class.

- These courses are structured for complete language and culture immersion. They provide an opportunity for further support of a student's mother tongue.
- Through these courses students embrace their own cultural heritage and learn about the cultures of other students by participating in a variety of cultural events and activities adopted into the curriculum.
- Students in a language track that is not their mother tongue, will receive intervention for language acquisition during school hours, a minimum of once a week for 30 minutes, provided by VCS instructional staff.
- If the school does not provide sufficient exposure to the student's mother tongue in its regular program, the student will be recommended for the extended hour program, an after-school fee based tutoring service for further assistance.

### **Instructional Staff Responsibilities:**

- All teachers share responsibility in facilitating communication. Accordingly, all teachers will serve as language teachers and will ensure that various communication models are implemented in the classroom.
- All teachers participate in continuous language training, beginning as early as August (summer month) before the start of the school year.
- Academic language learning is integrated in the process of interdisciplinary planning across all curriculum as evident in routine unit planning.

### **Informing Students, Parents, and Community:**

At the start of each academic year, Victory Charter School students are expected to thoroughly read the Language Policy and understand their responsibilities as a VCS student. Additionally, the Language Policy will form part of the VCS IB Handbook, available for students, parents, and the community via our school website.

### **Review of Policy**

The Language Policy will be reviewed annually during the leadership team retreat at the end of each school year to ensure it is up to date with the principles and practices of VCS and the IB organization.