



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 families and cultures who speak an array of languages. We value our students' language abilities at all levels and in any tongue. We also believe that Green Valley High School teachers and administration have a professional responsibility to strengthen professional learning in order to provide effective language and content instruction and to enhance family engagement and support for **ALL** of our students.

English Language Instruction Professional Development:

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 and learning activities, we are sensitive to the variety of cultures represented in our student body and aim to explicitly encourage international mindedness.

Additionally, with the creation and implementation of the five-year *CCSD Master Plan for English Language Learner Success*, the English Language Learner Division is implementing systemic professional learning opportunities that support **all** Clark County School District (CCSD) educators to effectively apply and refine instructional practices that serve the needs of ELL students, as well as students who come to school speaking non-standard varieties of English, by strengthening their teaching of content knowledge, analytical practices, and academic uses of language that ELLs need to be highly successful in school and beyond.

All teachers currently employed in CCSD will have completed, by 2022, a minimum of 90 out-of contract hours/30 contact units of professional learning via institutes focused on the ELL core teaching competencies and thereby gain a *CCSD Academic Language and Content Achievement Certificate*. The Professional Learning Institutes for the Core Competencies will be implemented in stages using a cohort-group strategy. Elementary and secondary classroom teachers will enter ELL-focused professional learning on the Core Competencies in cohorts based on District and/or performance zone priorities. They will engage in a carefully designed and intensive three-year learning journey¹.

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.)

¹ CCSD's *Master Plan for English Language Learner Success* (2016)

- 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*; and *PRIDE club*.

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.”²

Green Valley Language Instruction and Courses:

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

² Clark County School District’s *Master Plan for English Language Learner Success* (2016)