



# SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anthony Q. Davis, Superintendent of Schools

John T. Roberts PreK-8 School

Dr. Sharon Archer, Principal

## International Baccalaureate

### PYP/MYP Language Policy

#### The Roberts School Mission:

To provide the students of Roberts School with a high-quality education that will produce inquiring, knowledgeable, active citizens and leaders from our diverse community while developing lifelong learners, positive relationships and creating a culture of pride, respect, caring, compassion, and social responsibility.

#### Philosophy:

At John T. Roberts PK-8, we believe that:

- All students will benefit from a shared commitment to language acquisition in all classes and across all subjects.
- Language is a fundamental means of communication and learning.
- Language is an expression of culture and must be valued.
- Students must develop competency in reading, writing, listening, speaking, design and technology.
- Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding.
- We believe that every staff member is a language teacher.
- Teachers must strive to recognize the language needs of all students and work to serve these needs within and outside the classroom.

#### Development and Maintenance of Language:

PYP	MYP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote inquiry-based authentic language learning</li><li>• Focus on the transdisciplinary nature of language learning</li><li>• Develops speaking, listening, reading, writing and media literacy</li><li>• Incorporate teaching and learning of language into Program of Inquiry</li><li>• Provides the teaching and learning of a second language</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporate teaching and learning of language into program across all disciplines</li><li>• Integrates language acquisition within interdisciplinary planning and teaching</li><li>• Utilizes the MYP subject area objectives and criterion</li><li>• Provides the teaching and learning of a second language</li></ul>

#### Practices:

**Primary Language of Instruction: English**



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Students  
enrolled  
in John

T. Roberts Language and Literature classes will use language to better understand themselves and the world around them. They will explore other ways of thinking, become critical, literate, creative, and lifelong readers, writers, listeners, and speakers.

- Language and literature will be taught in English. It is the language of instruction for all courses, except those taught in our Language Acquisition Department.
- All students are required to participate in an English Language Arts class every year of enrollment.
- The Syracuse City School District Language and Literature curriculum is aligned to the NYS standards and the IB written curriculum required components.

## **Language Acquisition:**

### **Language Acquisition taught at school: Spanish (MYP) and American Sign Language (PYP/MYP)**

The world language instruction at J.T. Roberts School is American Sign Language (PYP and MYP) and Spanish (MYP). Fluent-signing ASL teachers provide Primary Years Students (K – 6) with 40 minutes of ASL instruction every six days and is a requirement to fulfill the Language Acquisition subject area. Fluent-speaking Spanish teachers will provide Middle Years students (6-8) with three to five hours of Spanish or ASL Instruction weekly. Language Acquisition instruction supports the IB concept of international mindedness and development of the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. The student of language involves the study of and appreciation for other cultures and perspectives. This awareness will allow our students to view the world as a collection of people from different experiences; students will know that citizens of our country have a unique place in the world. The study of language, culture, and geography begins with our year 1 students and will be carried into high school with specific language courses offered up to and including grade 12.

Language skills are fundamental to the appreciation of global citizenship. As John. T Roberts becomes a more multi-cultural campus, students identified as multilingual are being recognized and welcomed. Students are encouraged to share their language knowledge and culture with the school community through classroom and school-wide events.

## **Native Language:**

The language learned first and/or the language identified as the primary language spoken at home. We believe that recognizing and supporting our students' native language is crucial to their development. The role of parents is vital in ensuring a positive approach to the development of languages. Appropriate support with English at home, as well as the students home language, is an essential part of student's success both in English and non- English-speaking families.

## **English Language Learners at John T. Roberts will be supported by:**

- Providing ENL Instruction
- Providing language support in small groups – ENL Teachers
- Activating prior knowledge
- Encouraging students to maintain their native language
- Honoring and supporting students' native language
- Offering library resources – other language books in classroom and school libraries
- Translating home-school information and communication
- Using vocabulary strategies throughout all content area instruction