



Language Policy

Sutton Middle School & North Atlanta High School

Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School recognize that language proficiency is essential to effective relationships in the modern world. Thorough practices in receptive and productive skills allow students to understand and communicate in spoken and written formats. Study of literature, social discourse, exposition, persuasive writing, information dissemination of data, and information literacy empower students to appreciate their world. The ability to present thought in written and digital compositions permits students to move confidently into an ever changing world.

The home language of the school (Language A), world languages (Language B), and mother tongues (Language A) are all addressed at Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School in language learning environments. All teachers acknowledge that they are language teachers who support effective communication skills. They deliver content in the language of the school (Language A) and assist English Language Learners (ELL) in acquiring that language. They respect the mother tongues of all students who are new to the country. They use language as a medium of instruction, an instrument of assessment, a means of all levels of conversation, and a tool for reflection.

Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School have systemized their delivery of instruction in English language and literature, in English as an acquired language, in heritage language classes and in instruction of four world languages. Language classes are customized to meet the needs of learners. Teachers differentiate classroom practice and assessment to meet the needs of all learners.

Language A instruction at all levels is rigorous, meaningful, and sequential. Teachers seek to help students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing and presenting information and ideas. Writing skills are stressed as part of communication and reflection essentials. Students learn to respond to literature at successive degrees of complexity. Essays, journals, reflection activities, media projects, and presentations all demonstrate the concentration on language essentials. Students in all five grades of the MYP create written and spoken work and presentations in English or a world language. Vertical planning allows for a learning continuum.



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World language classes are essential to the educational vision of both schools. At Sutton Middle School most students have started one of two world languages in their feeder PYP. They continue with French or Spanish instruction at Sutton, where eight teachers deliver a comprehensive program. All students who are on grade level in instruction in Language A take sequential classes in Language B. Below grade level students participate in intensive skills classes in Language A. These students proceed to Language B when they catch up to grade level in Language A. All other students begin world language instruction in grade six with French or Spanish and proceed for the remainder of MYP.

North Atlanta High School enjoys a proud history and a clear focus on world language learning. The school delivers the final years of the MYP world language instruction in Spanish, French, Arabic, or Chinese. At North Atlanta High School, some students elect to add a second Language B to their program; they continue toward proficiency with Spanish or French and add Arabic, Chinese, French or Spanish. They can continue with both world languages through the DP. The DP at North Atlanta High School prepares students to sit for the DP exams in Spanish, French, Arabic, and Chinese.

North Atlanta offers heritage classes for Spanish speakers who are new to the educational system of the USA. These students may have experienced an interruption in their formal education. Heritage classes allow Spanish-speaking students to become proficient in their home language, where speaking and listening may be stronger than reading and writing skills. An informal approach allows native speakers of French, Arabic, and Chinese to maintain skills as well.

At both schools, world language teachers are highly qualified; at both schools most are native speakers. The high school offers exchange programs, where students can host international students, or travel to international destinations. World language instruction offers depth to authentic teaching and learning at both of the partner schools.