

Syllabus

English as a Second Language

Ms. Alicia Howard – Room 203

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Welcome to ESL! As some of you already know, we have our own little world in ESL. Our classroom is a place of support as students adapt to becoming more fluent in the English language. This means not only in regular speaking, which many students already do well, and is also called BIC (Basic Interpersonal Communication), but ESL provides students with the CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency), which is basically the formal English needed for school. Many students who are very good at social speaking (BIC) may not be as experienced in academic language (CALP) and will perform better in all subject areas of school by attending ESL classes. These subject areas include math, science, and social studies in addition to English.

In ESL class, students will improve academic language proficiency. They will learn how to understand what they read faster and with better results in other classes. Students will accomplish this by building on the foundations of English phonics, morphemes or word parts, vocabulary, parts of speech, and sentence structure. These foundations will also strengthen the writing skills students will practice all semester.

Speaking and listening skills will also be developed as students practice using the words and grammar structures they learn, understanding tricks of listening to American English, conversing with one another, and improving pronunciation. This takes place in a supportive, welcoming atmosphere where second language learners feel comfortable to interact with peers who have experienced similar challenges. Assistance with classwork or homework is available from me and classmates to help all students be successful in their other classes as well as in their English study.

Rules

1. No talking while the teacher is talking unless you are asking the teacher a question.
2. Stay clean. (Keep the aisles clear. Do not write on desks. Put trash and recyclables in their correct container.)
3. Follow the school rules according to the handbook. (No phones unless instructed otherwise. Maintain academic integrity, **no cheating.**)

Discipline Plan

1st time...Conference with student.

2nd time... Conference with student and call home.

3rd time... Call parent and after school detention.

4th time... Inform parent of referral to administration.

Materials Required

Bilingual dictionary of your language and English (example: Spanish-English dictionary)

Loose-leaf paper

Three-ring pocket folder

Thumb drive (no need for a separate new one; you can use the same one you already have)

Pencils, pens (please bring these!!!)

Colored Pencils

Earphones/headphones with microphones for in-class computers and I-pads

Grading Policy

Tests/Projects 25%: This includes writing assignments such as final drafts of essays or other papers along with grammar and reading tests.

Quizzes 25%: This includes rough drafts of essays and outlines along with regular vocabulary quizzes.

Classwork/Homework/Participation 50%: This includes group work, class read-alouds, grammar/language practice assignments, and speaking or listening activities.

Tutoring is available Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school by appointment I ask for notice in case of game duty or other obligations. However, I am usually available at school until at least 4:45 most days other than Mondays and Wednesdays. If you let me know, I can usually stay to help you or schedule a parent conference. I can possibly stay later as needed for tutoring or conferences.

Make-up work: It is the student's responsibility to get work and notes missed due to an excused absence. Quizzes and tests can be made up within three days of missed date.

Class Points: Not based on grades but earned separately for rewards. Together the students will set goals and rewards for the points. Points are based on student behavior, participation, and adherence to class policy.

Learning and becoming better in English require effort. I understand that it can be difficult. I am here to support and help you, but you have to try!

Attendance, class participation, completion of assignments and daily study is a must. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Please sign below to indicate your understanding and support of the classroom system.

Student Signature :

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Parent/Guardian Phone Number & Email:
