



Reading Public Schools English Learner Department



October 2018 Newsletter

ELL Curriculum & Instruction

Every lesson is designed to help students in all areas of learning English: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

The lessons are individualized according to how much English your child knows. Our class sizes are small, so we are able to focus on what your child specifically needs. For some students, this is extra help with vocabulary, grammar, or spelling. Other students need assistance with academic writing or reading comprehension.

We use research-based strategies to provide lessons that will improve all English skills so that your child can continue to have success in the general education classroom.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mid-November: Middle and High Schools, 1st Quarter Report Cards online

November 16: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences at the elementary schools- Translators available upon request

Educational Expectations in the USA

Every country has different expectations for students and their parents. In the USA, parents are seen as partners in their child's education. Teachers value parents' input about their child's needs and expect parents to support their child's learning.

Every school has a Handbook that explains what is expected of students. You should have received this at the beginning of the school year, either on paper or via an online link. If you have any questions about this, you may contact the school office, or your child's ELL teacher who will help you get the information.

Students should complete all assigned homework. Homework is given so that the student can practice new skills. If the student does not understand the homework, it is ok to write on the homework "did not understand" and return it to the teacher. This will let the teacher know that more explanation is necessary.

How do you know how your child is doing in school?

The ELL Department will send you Progress Reports for your student's English language development for grades K-12 in November, February, and June.

At the elementary level (Kindergarten to Grade 5), there is a Parent/Teacher Conference in November. This is a short meeting where you can talk to the teacher and discover how your child is doing in school. You will also be getting Report Cards online in February and June.

At the middle and high school levels, your child will receive grades four times a year. The Report cards will be online in November, January, March, and June.

What can I do to support or help my child?

Transitioning to a new country with a different language and culture can be both stressful and exciting. One way to help is by being supportive and patient with your child's efforts to adapt to the new environment. These are ways you can help!

Listening

- Get books-on-tape from the library and listen to them in the car or at home
- Rent movies together and discuss them
- Go to free activities at the library or school

Speaking

- Encourage your child to join a sports team, club, or after school activity
- Volunteer together in the community
- Encourage your child to play with English-speaking children

Reading

- Create a reading time for whole family, or at bedtime
- Read a book together (in English or your native language) and share your ideas
- Take trips to the public library together.
- Turn off the computer, iPad and the TV

Writing

- Encourage your child to keep a diary in English, or in your native language
- Write and illustrate stories together
- Write grocery lists together in English.
- Send letters and postcards to English-speaking friends and family members

Online Links & Resources

For English Learners...

English Club- www.englishclub.com/learn-english.htm

Fun English Games- www.funenglishgames.com/games.html

ESL Games Plus- www.eslgamesplus.com

DuoLingo- www.duolingo.com

For parents of English Learners...

Colorín Colorado- www.colorincolorado.org/families/

Reading Rockets- Learning 2 Languages- Being Bilingual

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/learning-two-languages>

Please contact one of us if you have any questions!

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