

English as a Second Language

9th Grade [6 periods per week]

Ms. Danielle Schaeffer

Course Description

This is an intensive English language course designed to improve students' English proficiency by building a strong foundation in language, and using that language in experiences and projects. Students will regularly practice the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in coursework tailored to his or her current level of competency. Each unit will incorporate multiple levels that target different language functions and structures. When appropriate, the class content will be closely tied to the mainstream English class.

Skills at a Glance

Reading: Students will read fiction and non-fiction books and texts autonomously using various reading strategies. Material will gradually increase in difficulty, and we will read, analyze, and make connections individually and together as a class in a book club type group.

Writing: Students will have assignments based on topics we study, moving from simple topics that relate to themselves, to more complex social topics. We will aim to do some writing during each class to build confidence, and ultimately write and learn about different expository genres. Students will read and answer comprehension questions on news articles, will respond to question prompts, and write summaries based on various topics, social issues, and texts they have read. As appropriate, students will work on novels or themes that their counterparts in mainstream English are reading.

Listening: Students will work on pronunciation, comprehending different accents, understanding speech at various speeds, and using "chunks" of language in conversation to get the "gist" and participate in conversation.

Speaking: Students will engage in discussions on a variety of topics in Socratic Seminars, acting out of scenes, presentations, games, etc. These will gradually increase in difficulty and expectations of content.

Grammar: Following the NG Cengage program, "EDGE", for "Advanced Beginning Students" which includes a natural progression.

Timeline

Note: This is a sample timeline and may vary depending on student levels.

1st Semester

Unit 1: short stories
Unit 2: non-fiction
Unit 3: drama
Unit 4: novel

2nd Semester

Unit 5: short stories
Unit 6: non-fiction
Unit 7: drama
Unit 8: novel

Ongoing: Students should always have an Independent Reading Book to read at home, in their own time. It should be based on a student's interest and lexile level.