English Language Development, Grades 4-5B
Course Overview

Purpose of the Document: This document provides an overview of this course. The information provided below is designed to support students, parents, and the school community to understand the major content of the course and the standards used to design it. To support the needs of students, teachers may make adjustments as needed. Please contact your child's teacher and/or review the course Schoology page with your child for additional information.

Program Vision: English learners in Cecil County Public Schools have equitable access to meaningful and rigorous learning opportunities that build on their cultural and linguistic assets and graduate with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be successful in college and/or a career and to contribute to civic life in a global community.

Program Mission: English learners attend schools in which all educators share responsibility for their success, engage effectively with their families, and value and nurture their linguistic and cultural assets. They are taught by effective, well-prepared, and culturally responsive educators who hold them to high standards in order to advance students' academic and linguistic development.

Course Description: English learners receive English Language Development (ELD) instruction through a pull-out or push-in model. To facilitate effective standards-based instruction, we respond to their academic, linguistic, cultural, and social/emotional contributions and potential using an asset-based approach. WIDA's Can Do Philosophy guides our work as we focus on what language learners can do in order to actively engage them and their families and collaborate with school staff to promote effective strategies.

MARKING PERIOD ONE (September - November)

Units at-a-Glance:

- My Goals and My Story
- Ecosystems
- Animal Cells and Life Processes
- Pollution and Our Planet

Standards Taught/Key Language Uses

WIDA English Language Development Standards

- Write a personal reflection about your language learning goals (Inform).
- Share how animals contribute to the ecosystem (Explain).
- Describe the characteristics and functions of an animal cell (Inform).
- Make a claim using data about water pollution (Argue).

How students are graded:

- Performance Tasks focused on listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Formative and Summative Assessments
- Annual WIDA ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency Assessment.
- Other Evidence (exit tickets, classwork, quick checks for learning)

Resources:

- Articles and videos from Discovery Education, Scholastic Kids, and Pebble Go
- Images from National Geographic
- Leveled Readers from Raz Kids ELL Edition

Home and School Connection

Get organized: Help your child pick out a special English language notebook or folder, and make sure your child has supplies, such as pencils, pens, writing paper, and a bilingual dictionary (available from school).

Get into a routine:

- Set a regular time for practicing English every day, and look for a study area with good light. Help your child get into the habit of getting homework done before doing other activities.
- Help your child learn about new words or content in a variety of ways. Talk about new vocabulary words several times over the course of the week.

Limit distractions: Turn off the TV and video games, and restrict phone calls and texting during study time. If your child is using the computer for homework, check in periodically to make sure they are getting work done.

Use your primary language: Talk with your child about what they are learning, and ask them to explain new concepts in your language to make sure they understand them.