

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLEASANTVILLE COURSE SYLLABUS



PROFICIENCY AND CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Course Name: 6th-8th Grade ESL/Bilingual English Language Arts

Instructor(s): Mrs. Rios, Mrs. Volz

Course Description:

ESL/Bilingual English Language Arts will assist students to develop Basic English vocabulary and grammatical structures. The classes are designed to increase the students' communications skills through all domains such as reading, writing, speaking and listening to the English language. Our primary focus in language arts class will be to assist in improving the ability to read and write in English as well as refining skills in reading comprehension and composition. English Language Learners (ELLs) build on their proficiency levels from beginners through intermediate, further developing grammar, sentence patterns, vocabulary and literature, basic research, conversation and presentation. Mastery in English is measured using WIDA proficiency levels which range from 1.0 to 4.5.

Course Objectives/Curriculum:

Every unit will develop students' Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing skills:

Listening: Students will listen to English from their teacher and other media. They will also listen to English spoken by their peers. They must focus their attention on the speaker's message in order to comprehend and produce a meaningful response.

Speaking: Students will have the daily opportunity to practice speaking in structured conversations with their peers. Also, there will be several projects which require the students to present information to the class using newly acquired English skills.

Reading: Students will be reading a variety of modified texts, including short stories, poetry, and expository writing, with guidance and support from their teacher and peers. Students will learn various strategies to help them comprehend a text in their second language. They will also learn analytical skills necessary to interpret both literature and images.

Writing: Students will be writing on a daily basis, practicing the grammar structures and the new vocabulary. They will write a variety of personal narratives, descriptions, reports, poems, and reflections based on the literature. They will also have the opportunity to create their own works of creative fiction in response to various texts.

Textbook and Materials:

Decoding and Corrective Reading
Inside the USA Newcomer Textbook
INSIDE Levels A and B Textbooks

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Required Course Materials - All students will need the following:

- *Composition Notebook
- *Spiral Notebook
- *Folder - Homework
- *Writing Utensils (Black/blue pens or mechanical pencils are required.)

Grading Plan:

Grades will be generated using the Pleasantville School District grading policy outlined below:

Grade	Category	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
6-8	Performance Assessment / Project Based Assessment	25%	25%	25%	25%
	Tests	25%	25%	25%	25%
	Quizzes	20%	20%	20%	20%
	End of Cycle Assessments	15%	15%	15%	15%
	Homework	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Class Work	10%	10%	10%	10%
	Related Academics				
		Tests	30%		
		Quizzes	25%		
		Homework	10%		
		Class Work / Class Participation	35%		

Grading Scale

Grade	Numeric Equivalent	Weighted GPA
A+	100-97	4.25
A	96-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.75
B+	89-87	3.25
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.75
C+	79-77	2.25
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.75
D+	69-67	1.25
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.75
F	59-0	0.00

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Course Policies:

- **Student Work:** Students will be expected to complete assignments outside of class time on a regular basis. All students are expected to read class material, think critically and write effectively. Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar and correct spelling in every written performance.
- **Portfolio:** Students will be required to bring your portfolio to class every day. You will be expected to maintain a neatly organized portfolio for the duration of the class. Your portfolio will be filled with items you have created and assignments that reflect your mastery of course objectives. The teacher will give you regular guidance on how to construct and maintain your portfolio.
- **Group Activities:** You will be working in groups on a regular basis. Your group will be given cooperative learning activities to complete. You will be expected to be an active member of your group and participation points will be assessed accordingly. You will always be graded as an individual; however your group may earn points together that will lead to a reward.
- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be offered from time to time. Extra credit is extra work above and beyond the usual homework, not work used to cover up missing work.
- **Absences:** If a student is absent, it is HIS/HER responsibility to get all late work from the teacher and return it in a timely manner.

Questions about the course? Please feel free to contact your child's instructor:

Mrs. Rios rios.cynthia@pps-nj.us
Mrs. Volz volz.deborah@pps-nj.us

Statement for Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is expected in this class. Cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

I have read and understand the guidelines and requirements for this course.

MSP: Where everyone is a learner, everyone is a teacher, and everyone is a leader!

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Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your child's instructor.