



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview English as a Second Language

Course Description:

All levels of ESL are designed to assist students who come from an environment where a language other than English is dominant and who need intensive instruction in English language in order to succeed in the regular academic content area curriculum. Proficient use of the English language enables students to explore and articulate the complex issues and ideas encountered in public and personal life. Students acquire the ability to make full and effective use of the written language in their future educational, occupational, and personal endeavors. In addition, the program provides assistance to students as they learn to adjust to American culture and express themselves in culturally appropriate ways.

Essential Skills and Processes: Students will –

- develop language skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing and be able to use English language skills for purposeful communication for interpretive, interpersonal and presentational tasks
 - develop an understanding of American culture with emphasis on history, literature, and patterns of everyday behavior
 - make connections between the study of English and other content areas
 - demonstrate understanding of the English language and American culture by comparing them to their native languages and cultures
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Essential Knowledge: Students will –

Language skills

- demonstrate growth in the use of oral language in social and academic settings
- use and expand vocabulary for both social and academic purposes
- use meaning clues and language structure when reading
- incorporate reading strategies to comprehend texts
- read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fiction, narrative nonfiction and poetry;
- write to communicate ideas in a variety of styles (descriptions, narratives, explanations, short reports)
- edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling and sentence structure

Cultures

- explore aspects of geography and history of the US
- develop an awareness of lifestyles and traditions (daily routines, recreation, fine and domestic arts);
- explore iconic figures and significant holidays and celebrations
- examine mutual influences and contributions of various cultures on each other
- compare and contrast customs that relate to family, meals, the concept of time, schools, recreation, dating, shopping, environment, travel and professions
- develop a better understanding of English by comparing and contrasting sounds, vocabulary, structure and idioms with their first language

Connections

- use technology to access information
- read and understand various sources of information in English that relate to history, geography, the arts and sciences
- discuss current events as they apply to the United States and areas of the world where the students are from

Resources:

Virginia Department of Education

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/esl/index.shtml>

TESOL / Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages / National Standards

http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/index.asp