

Pocono Mountain
School District
1st Quarter 2021
ESL Newsletter



Our ESL Staff at Pocono Mountain help students meet high academic standards in language arts. It is essential that ESL students have access to rich oral and written language. Our ESL teachers provide opportunities for classroom discourse and interactions to enable students to develop communicative strengths in language arts. Most importantly, they teach our students to be confident by giving them opportunities to share their cultures from around the world.



East High school

As the ESL teacher for the Ejr and EHS, I am excited to reunite with my returning students! I love watching them grow from year to year! The students and I are getting to know our new classmates, welcoming them to the EHS and into our ESL family! We have been setting up our classroom routine, assigning materials, completing level/progress tests and, at this time, we have completed two chapters of our vocabulary workbooks and are reading our first stories of the year.

I'm excited for the 21-22 school year and working with these amazing students!



You are the reason I love to teach! - Ms. Mascia



west High School

I enjoy having the students complete an interest inventory at the beginning of the year. This year's focus was on their reading and writing preferences as well as their perceived strengths and weaknesses in each domain. My sophomores are currently working on a Playlist of My Life assignment, which allows them to choose pertinent songs that relate to the highlights and lowlights of their lives thus far.

-Franchetta Smith



East Junior High School

Welcome back!

I am so happy to be back with in-person instruction! The East Junior High School is new for the 7th graders as well as many of the returning 8th grade students! The students are learning the classroom routines as well as finding their way around the building, their chromebooks, Google classrooms and the new Powerschool. Also, we have been reviewing the PRIDE rubric for school expectations at this level. In ELA, we have studied two chapters of vocabulary and completed our first readings. Thursday's vocabulary review game has become a class favorite activity!

21-22 is going to be a great year! -Ms. Mascia



West Junior High School

As a teacher of English language learners, I find it very valuable and important to get to know my students and to make them feel comfortable and welcome in my classroom, as well as, in the WJHS school community. My students' happiness and success is my first priority. I look forward to a fun, and exciting year filled with an abundance of growing and learning!



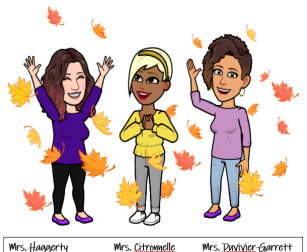
-Ms. Marrazzo
PANTHER PRIDE!



Swiftwater Intermediate School

All students and especially our EL's need to feel a sense of belonging, safety, and self worth. Getting to know our students and their families will encourage and develop these important levels of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This year Mrs. McGee will be splitting her days, SIS in the morning and SEC in the afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity for her and also for her students. She has established a connection with them and their families at SEC and will continue to nurture that relationship at the intermediate level. Mrs. Malinowski will continue to support her students and families as the full time ESL teacher at SIS. We look forward to an amazing school year, filled with learning, friendships, and fun.

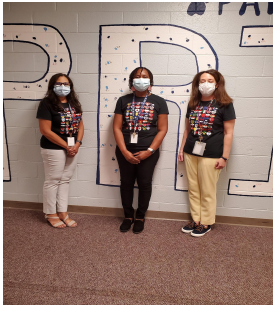
Thank you,
Mrs. Malinowski and Mrs. McGee



Clear Run Intermediate School

At Clear Run Intermediate School, we believe that we are advocates for our ESL students. We love and support our ESL families and communities. We look forward to working with our students on developing their language skills. We appreciate learning about new cultures and experiences. Between the 3 of us, we have traveled to over 30 countries and have over 53 years of experience in teaching our ESL community. We look forward to many more years.

-Mrs. Haggerty, Mrs. Citronelle, and Mrs. Duvivier Garrett



Clear Run Elementary Center

At the beginning of each school year the ESL teachers at CREC look forward to meeting our new students and their families and learning about their languages and cultures. We also enjoy rekindling our relationships with our continuing students and families as we work towards academic excellence.

-Denise Cummings, Rosemarie Toussaint, and Joan Brundage



Swiftwater Elementary Center

We feel the most valuable piece for us in the beginning of the year is to learn about the wealth of knowledge and experience our students bring to the classroom. Learning about students' various cultures, backgrounds, skills, and languages can help our English language learners succeed in the classroom.

-Lisa McGee, Lorrie Reilly, and Jennifer Klem



Tobyhanna Elementary Center

We love learning about the new students and their families! Understanding new cultures and traditions makes our job so much fun! Our English language learners and their families have so much to add to our school community. ESL is the best!

-Tara Murphy and Karyn Yarashas



Pocono Mountain Cyber Program

Teaching English Learners in our PMSD Cyber program is so rewarding! Students in Kindergarten through 12th grade can work from the comfort of their homes and still receive ESL services. I love meeting with my students in our live sessions, learning about their personalities, strengths and cultures! I'm available multiple times a day to help with anything that they need. It's truly a great program!

-Tara Murphy

ESL Homework Tips to Start the Year Right!

Homework is important for students and their academic success, but helping children with homework can be difficult — especially if you are still learning English.

Here are some ways you can make homework easier for everyone — and remember that your involvement is the key to your child's success, no matter what language you are using!

Help Your Child Get Organized

Help your child pick out a special homework notebook or folder, and make sure your child has homework supplies, such as:

- pencils
- pens
- writing paper
- a dictionary

Get Into a Routine

Set a regular time for homework every day, and look for a homework area with good light. Help your child get into the habit of getting homework done before doing other activities.

Limit Distractions

Turn off the TV and video games, and restrict phone calls and texting during homework time. If your child is using the computer for homework, check in periodically to make sure he is getting homework done.

Talking About Homework

Show Your Child That You Think Homework Is Important!

Ask your child about her homework each day, and check to see that it is completed. Even if you don't understand the assignment or don't speak English, you can still check to see that it is finished. Tell your child that you are proud of the work she is doing.

Don't Be Afraid To Use Your Native Language

Talk with your child about what she is learning, and ask her to explain new concepts to make sure she understands them.

Study The Same Things In Different Ways and Places

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, in different settings. This will help enrich your child's understanding of the word.

Let Your Child Choose the First Subject to Study

Often, this is the one that your child likes the best. The next subject should be the hardest, and then your child can finish in any order.

Space Out The Learning

If your child has a big test coming up next week, help her study a little bit each day rather than cramming it in the night before. An hour or so every other day, spacing out the learning, is a better way to really learn the material.

Help Your Child Without Doing the Homework

It's important to answer questions if you can — but remember that homework is supposed to help children learn and that doing your child's homework does not help in the long run.

Talk With Your Child's Teacher

Find out what the teacher's homework rules are. If your child has a problem completing or understanding homework, call or e-mail the teacher to talk about the issue. Request or bring an interpreter if necessary to communicate with your child's teacher.