

Course: English Language Learner Transition (Grades 7 to 8)

Teacher Name: Natalie Vermeer

Contact information: nvermeer@sd44.ca

Course Description:

The Grade 7/8 Transition ELL program is designed to support beginning, developing, and expanding English learners in negotiating the changes and challenges inherent in moving from an intermediate to secondary learning environment. Students will engage with the big idea that understanding themselves as a learner enables the transfer of knowledge and skills to a variety of contexts. This will be explored through the investigation of the theme “connections” and “How do I know I am growing as a learner?”

Identity and connection are key concepts that will frame skill development. Students will focus on their emerging skills in relation to the core competencies. The Ministry of Education has defined three strands of Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal & Social. These skills will be developed through a variety of learning activities designed to build the strategies necessary for success in the high school setting.

Summer Learning Beliefs:

Summer Learning provides an engaging learning environment where all students can challenge themselves academically and fulfill their learning goals. To ensure this, students will:

- abide by the student Code of Conduct
- adhere to the Academic Honesty policy
- adhere to the *Summer Learning* Student Engagement policy
- respect themselves and others
- attend every class and be punctual
- inquire, think, and participate to the best of their ability
- access technology in class when instructed to do so and for learning purposes only
- challenge themselves and have fun learning

All Summer Learning policies can be accessed at:

<https://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/policies/Pages/default>

Course Syllabus:

<p>Core Competencies</p>	<p>What the students will do:</p> <p>Thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate and develop ideas. • Analyze and critique others' ideas. • Pose questions and investigate. <p>Personal/Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing and able to solve problems in peaceful ways. • Value diversity. • Make attempts to build relationships. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect and engage with others. • Access, interpret, and present information clearly. • Collaborate to plan and carry out activities.
<p>Summative Assessments</p>	<p>What the students will understand:</p> <p>Personal Goal-Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating personal goals and reflecting on use of strategies taught in class can help me learn new things <p>Organized Binder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arriving on time with all necessary materials prepares me to learn <p>Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on what I do well and what is challenging for me (in class activities and tasks) can prepare me for the demands of high school
<p>Transition Skills</p>	<p>What the students will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational skills • The experience of rotating through different classes • Strategies for goal setting • Self-assessment skills • Small group communication strategies

Evaluation:

Students who meet expectations can...

- Use a range of vocabulary with some descriptive words to create sentences and short writing pieces and to discuss ideas with a partner or small group
- Use strategies to decode unfamiliar words and text, and make basic connections to self, others, and the world from text
- Use a binder to collect and organize class work and retrieve binder items on demand

Celebration of learning:

The 2019 Celebration of Learning is shaped around “Connections”.

As outlined by the three core competencies, communication, thinking, and personal and social, the theme of “Connections” is central to 7/8 Transitions. Communication will take place in a uniquely new environment; thinking, both critical and creative, will be approached by teachers by new and provocative means; and students will be socially and emotionally interacting with a new peer group that will be diverse and significantly larger than experiences had at the elementary level.

Each student will complete a “connections” template during the course and choose a connected area of a growing concept map to place their work. Classes will be filmed, using time-lapse video, displaying their work together with a sister class. Students may have opportunity to view the video the following day.

Resources:

- | |
|--|
| • binder |
| • writing utensils (pens, pencils, pencil crayons, highlighters) |
| • Lined and blank paper |