

International English Class – 8th period

Class Format/Curriculum

Welcome! I am so excited to be teaching this class. This year we have a brand new curriculum called *Learning English with Laughter*. The focus of this class will be on conversational English. There will be some reading and writing exercises, but the majority of time will be spent on practicing the oral language.

During the first couple of days, each of you will take a placement test. This will determine the level of curriculum in which you will begin. There are 3 levels: High Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each text is divided into 2 sections: a student reader and a workbook. Feel free to write in either of these parts; they are yours to keep. Your “text” will be the 2 parts of the book in a 3-ring binder. We will complete 20 lessons each semester and each one will contain reading, writing, listening, and speaking components. Each lesson consists of a reading passage, a list of vocabulary words, and various exercises and activities dealing with the passage. A large portion of each class time will be spent in small groups or with partners, completing these exercises. After each lesson in the reader, there are several practice exercises in the workbook that re-enforce the concepts you learned. These will be assigned in class and will often need to be completed for homework.

After every 4 lessons a test will be given. These tests are usually pretty short and will always have an oral question section as well as a written section, usually over the grammar concept presented in those lessons. At the end of the book, a final exam will be given over the entire 20 lessons. Then starting 3rd quarter, you will move on to Part II of whatever level you began.

In addition to the textbook lessons, idiom quizzes will be given every Wednesday. You will receive your new list of expressions every Wednesday and have a weekly schedule in which you must complete the activities assigned. There will also be group discussion sessions where the questions go a bit deeper about these expressions. Each list is divided into themes. It is very important to know several of the more informal, slang expressions in the English language in order to be able to speak every day conversational English.

Grading

Your grade will be broken down in the following manner:

Tests: 35%

Idiom Quizzes: 25%

Workbook/Idiom Lesson Assignments: 20%

Class Participation/small group activities: 20%

I will be entering these grades weekly on the RenWeb system so be sure to check these regularly once that system is open to parents and students.

Class Expectations

As ELL Learners, I expect you to come with a willing and excited spirit to learn more about the wonderful English language! This curriculum is focused on speaking, so as timid and shy as some of you might be about speaking in front of the group, this is the best way to improve: practice, practice, practice! The class size is small, so this will hopefully help you feel less intimidated about speaking in front of the class. English is the only language allowed to be spoken in this class. Repeated infractions will result in discipline. English hand held translators may be used on non- test days.

The classroom rules can be divided into 5 general ones:

1. **Be on time!** Tardiness disrupts the day's events – we only have a short time to complete everything that we need to! This means in your seat, ready to begin.
2. **Be prepared!** Come to class with all of your materials (your binder, paper, pencil/pen, and any assignment that is due).
3. **Be respectful!** This class is structured a bit differently than other classes. There will be several days where you will be doing role play activities and small group exercises. Be kind to others and speak respectfully to each other and the teacher. Be respectful of the room as well. Be sure to pick up any trash you leave behind.
4. **Be enthusiastic!** Come ready to participate – learning English is fun! 😊

I'm looking forward to a great year! My main classroom is C4, so feel free to come by before or after school or during lunch if you have any questions.

- Miss Rukes