

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Newton's Grove celebrates diversity, and nowhere is that diversity more apparent than in our ESL programs. We therefore offer a range of ESL programs from the Junior years through to the end of high school. We offer qualified ESL instruction as well as teachers who are trained to be aware, and sensitive to, the needs of new English learners.



ESL PROGRAM

Goals

The goals of our ESL department are to help English language learners develop the skills they need to become proficient in everyday English and, in turn, to gain the proficiency in academic English that will allow them to integrate successfully into the mainstream school program. The ESL program is therefore a combination of integrated class time with grade-appropriate peers as well as separate ESL instruction.

It is important to recognize that while English language learners are in the process of acquiring academic language, their age peers are not standing still in their own learning of language and concepts. In effect, English language learners must catch up with a moving target. Thus, from the very beginning levels of instruction, our curriculum for English language learners integrates academic language and literacy skills with subject related concepts and critical-thinking skills. Our aim is for ESL students to complete the integration into regular classes as soon as possible.

ESL in High School

At the high school level, the ESL program is designed to provide specific and appropriate language training for new English learners who intend to proceed to post-secondary study. Successful completion of the program means that a student has a sufficient level of English language proficiency to undertake studies at English speaking colleges or universities. We therefore offer the full range of Ministry mandated ESL courses, from ESL Level 1, Open (ESLAO) through to ESL Level 5, Open (ESLEO).

Depending on a student's initial mastery of English, this process may take two to four years, with complete integration into regular classes by grade twelve. Throughout this process, students are assigned a staff mentor who can guide them through any challenges they encounter either at or out of school.