

## **The Elementary School English as Additional Language Program (EAL)**

### **Our Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to help students develop English language skills, cultural awareness and learning strategies that will enable them to become successful learners and positive contributors to the wider community in which they live.

### **What is immersion?**

By immersion, the EAL program means commitment to offer the best English language support and instruction in your child's regular classroom. In the immersion approach the support services come to the child, rather than remove the child from his or her classroom environment and peers.

### **How does immersion work?**

EAL teachers are an integral part of the grade level planning and teaching team. They work side by side with the regular classroom teacher to support the language learner in a variety of ways. EAL specialists spend most of the time in the regular classroom focusing on the language and literacy content of the lessons.

EAL students are for the most part immersed in regular classroom activities with EAL teachers carefully monitoring their progress.

At times, students may be pulled out of class to accommodate and support specific needs.

## **Benefits of immersion**

- Maximizes exposure to spoken English
- Enhances communication in English
- Encourages faster language acquisition
- Demonstrates greater academic outcomes
- Increases appreciation and acceptance of individual differences and diversity
- Promotes respect for all people.

## **EAL Newcomer Program**

ISP currently offers the EAL Newcomers' Program to students who are new to learning English. Students qualify for this program if they have very little or no English.

This is a four week pullout program that consists of 4 components: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary and Survival English. Upon completion of the program, students continue to be serviced within the regular grade level classroom. The program exposes students to activities that are specifically designed to develop basic vocabulary, sentence structure, and confidence to communicate in English; For example, how to form simple subject/ verb/ object sentences, ask basic questions such as requesting lunch food choices, how to provide basic information about oneself, etc.

## **Qualification for EAL Services**

*A student will qualify for EAL services based on the following:*

- Teacher recommendation
- EAL teacher recommendation
- Parent recommendation
- The Language Assessment Scale Test (LAS)

## **The Language Assessment Scale**

- The Language Assessment Scale Test(LAS) is a comprehensive assessment tool used to determine the level of students' language proficiency
- The LAS Test is administered to new students whose native language is not English
- The student's language proficiency is tested in reading, writing, listening, and speaking
- An overall score below 4 in 1st to 5th grade qualifies the student for EAL services
- An overall score below 3 on the preLAS2000 language proficiency test in Kindergarten qualifies the student for EAL services