

English Language Learner (ELL) Program

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La Grande School District

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The English as a Second Language program made some large changes over the last couple of years. The program is taught by a half time ESL endorsed teacher who serves all six schools in the district. We have been deep in testing over the last couple months and are excited with student progress.

In the fall, ESL began in all schools with initial testing of all students in order to get a baseline of needs for students as well as assess any losses over the school year. The year started off great with smiling students and fun ESL sessions. We continue to offer both pull out and push in services, but this year added in intervention sessions for students who are in high need. Students in the ESL program work with the ESL teacher on fun lessons that are taught by level. The favorite lesson of students in the fall was in anticipation of winter. The group went on a virtual mountain vacation where they got to plan and imagine the dream trip to the mountain snow. Stu-

dents were able to use new vocabulary to describe, explain and plan the activities that they would like to do.

In the Winter, ESL students have been deep in state testing. All students take the ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment). This is a test that looks at what level of English understanding students are at in order for the ESL teacher to best support them. This assessment tests their listening, speaking, writing, reading, illocution and grammar. Services have just begun again. Students are excited for the new topics ranging from drawing and describing their dream home, putting together their dream toy collection and talking about a virtual trip to an island paradise.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call.



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