

# Olentangy Local School District

## English Learner Parent Newsletter - Fall 2021

Dear Families,

Vanakkam! Bonjour! Hola! Ciao! Namaste! Salaam! Marhaba! Ni Hao! Ola! Hello!

We would like to welcome back all of our returning students and families, as well as those of you who are new to us this year! Olentangy's English Language teaching staff is looking forward to a great school year!

Olentangy's English Language teachers provide social, emotional, and academic support to students that are new to learning English, as well as students whose first language is not English and are bilingual or multilingual. Our district supports over 900 students, kindergarten through 12th grade, and includes over 60 different languages. We have a caring team of teachers and bilingual aides to support our students and families in every building in our district.

Included below is information regarding English Learners and the process involved in determining English proficiency status and support.

### **Who Are English Learners (ELs)?**

- Recent arrivals with developed literacy skills in their primary language and use little or no English.
- Recent arrivals with literacy skills that need developed in their primary language and little or no English.
- Students who have lived in the United States a few years (two to five) and are on track to develop native-like proficiency in English.
- Long-term US residents who have little literacy in their primary language, adequate oral communication in English, and little to no academic literacy skills in both languages.

### **Identification Process**

- In accordance with federal law, at registration, school districts use the language usage survey results to identify students with languages other than English.
- In Ohio, school districts are required to use a state screener - Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener (OELPS). Students' English skills are assessed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- The results from the screener determines whether students qualify as English learners and would benefit from having a language instructional educational program to participate effectively in school.

### **Next Steps**

- Notify parents of English learner identification and services. If a student is identified as an English learner, the district or school will notify the parents/guardians.
- After a school district has identified a child as in need of EL services it must determine and implement the language instruction educational program the student will receive.

- All EL students are assessed annually in February-March. In Ohio, this is the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA). Students' English skills are assessed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students exit the program once they are Proficient on the OELPA. A score report is sent to families every summer.

Olentangy's EL program provides a nurturing and supportive environment. Our EL teachers use research-based instruction with supports to increase English proficiency. Supports provided depend on students' language proficiency levels. The goal is to help students grow their language skills to demonstrate proficiency and exit the program in a timely manner.

For further information regarding English Learning, please visit:

[Olentangy Schools English Language Learning Program website](#)

[Ohio Department of Education English Learners website](#)

**Community Connections: Women Connecting with New Americans:** This group offers free conversational English classes, shares about the understanding of American culture, and builds friendships and connections with other women. Currently, there are women in the group from Italy, Japan, China, Korea, and Brazil. Founders: Jenny Zhang and Sarah Naranya. Contact number: 330 - 268 - 9518

[Adult ESL classes - information can be found here](#)

Olentangy's EL Department values the relationships and communication we have with our students and their families. We look forward to building a successful partnership with you!

[Stefanie Daberkow](#)

Olentangy Local Schools  
English Learning Supervisor

[Kristin Bourdage](#)

Olentangy Local Schools  
Curriculum Supervisor

[Andrea Sharrock](#)

Olentangy Local Schools  
EL Coordinator

[Christina Aprile](#)

Olentangy Local Schools  
EL Department Chair

Olentangy Local School District Mission: To facilitate maximum learning for every student.