ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

ESL IMMERSION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our ESL program at St. Andrew's Schools offers developmentally appropriate instruction for language acquisition, from kindergarten to grade 12. Consistent with what we know about best practices for learning languages, our ESL program is a **full immersion** program. Teachers work seamlessly **in the classroom** with a team of ESL specialists to provide the extra support and the differentiation needed for successful class activities and positive socialization.

ASSESSMENTS

All students are formally tested shortly after their enrollment and again toward the end of the academic year with the LAS Links English Language Proficiency, a standardized test determining language proficiency. This assessment measures competencies in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and comprehension. It is aligned to the ESL learning standards of several states and of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), the professional organization for teachers of English to non-native speakers.

Grades 6-12 students are evaluated throughout the year according to our school ESL rubric. They will test out of ESL as soon as they reach the proficient level as defined by the LAS Links program. In addition, the Lower School students are tested throughout the year with the classroom teacher or ESL specialist on fluency, phonological awareness, phonics, and sight words. The results of these tests will pinpoint areas of need and drive daily in class instruction.

Both types of assessments allow our educational team to tailor the support needed by each of our ESL students. Individualized support will evolve according to progress. Progress will be recorded at the beginning and end of each school year with the goal for Lower School students to test out of ESL by 12 years old.