

FEBRUARY 2026

BILINGUAL EDUCATION & WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

WINTER EDITION



WHERE LEARNING COMES ALIVE
IN EVERY LANGUAGE

Dear Team,

As we head into our winter recess, we are proud to share our latest department highlights: **Where Learning Comes Alive in Every Language.**

This title reflects the energy we see in your classrooms every day. In this issue, we are celebrating that momentum by spotlighting:

- **Student Success:** A look at how our multilingual learners are bridging languages through content.
- **Instructional Strategies:** Practical resources to support language acquisition.
- **Classroom Practices:** A spotlight on the innovative teaching and learning taking place in our schools.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students' language development. I hope the upcoming week allows for a well-deserved period of rest.

Director of Bilingual Education
& World Languages
Michelle Pineda-Rodgers

HIGHLIGHTING OUR CO-TEACHING TEAMS

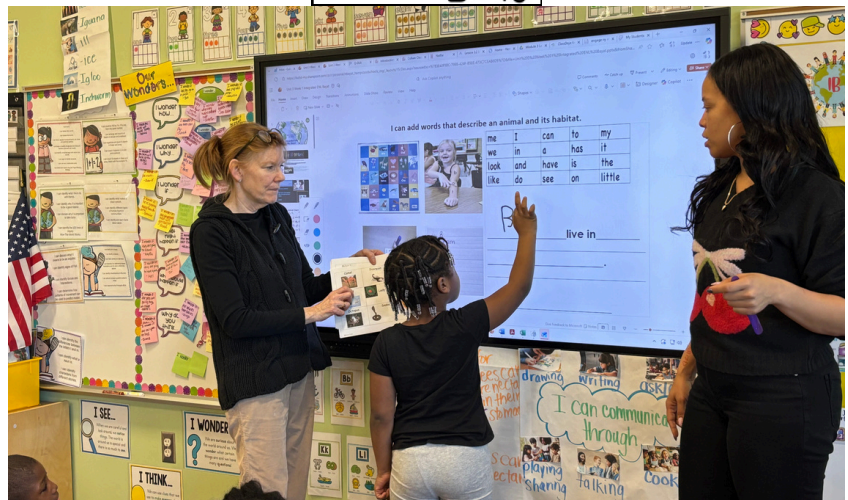
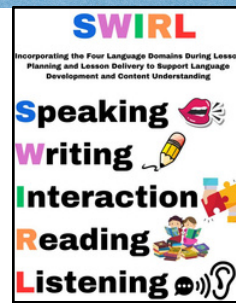
TEAMWORK THAT TRANSFORMS LEARNING

A.B.G.S Middle School

Mr. Robert Graziosi- ELA Teacher
Ms. Seher Qazi-ENL Teacher

EMPOWERING OUR WRITERS

Mr. Graziosi and Ms. Qazi engaged scholars in interactive, scaffolded lessons to support their comparative essays on the pros and cons of cellphone use in the classroom. Through modeled examples, guided practice, and structured writing routines, students accessed rigorous grade-level work with confidence. Flexible grouping and meaningful feedback helped meet each learner exactly where they are to be successful thinkers.



PROSPECT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Nancy Bayat- ENL Teacher
Ms. Cullum - Classroom Teacher

Ms. Bayat and Ms. Cullum engaged scholars in their understanding of nouns and adjectives through modeled instruction, visuals, and hands-on activities. They practiced using descriptive language during turn-and-talk discussions and applied their learning by writing simple descriptive sentences utilizing SWIRL.

Small-group support and sentence frames helped all learners participate confidently and successfully through the writing process.



SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVE LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

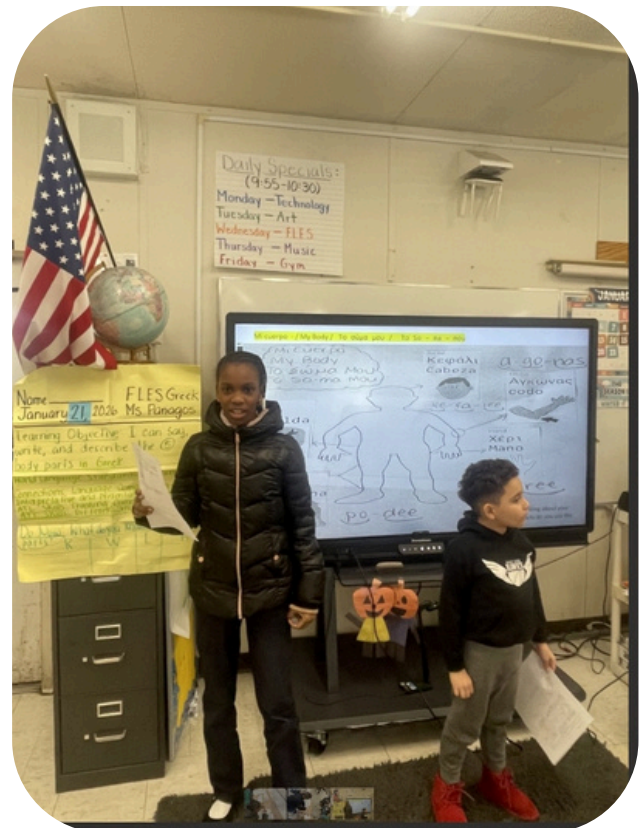
Our teachers are boosting student engagement through interactive strategies such as digital quizzes and collaborative activities. As seen in this year's Professional Development Sessions, *TPR*, *Storytelling*, *Story Listening*, *Blooket*, and *Visible Writing* strategies are being embedded into daily lessons to promote active, student-centered learning.



iEn Movimiento! Storytelling & Write and Discuss Strategies in Mrs. Arenas' Spanish Class



Blooket in Action in Mr. Jacques' French Class



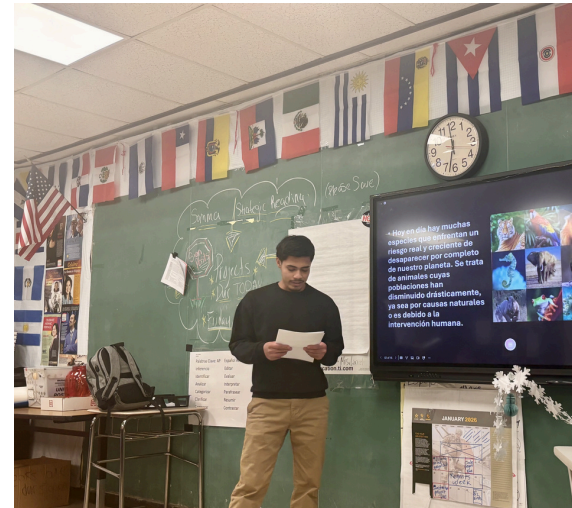
Bringing Greek to Life: TPR and Story Listening in Ms. Panagos' FLES Classroom

SEAL OF BILITERACY HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Biliteracy Spotlight

In Mrs. Pradella's classroom, students are actively engaging in learning experiences aligned with the NYS Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) requirements. Learners are participating in rigorous tasks designed to demonstrate high-level proficiency in the four domains of language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

These experiences allow students to showcase the linguistic competence and intercultural skills necessary to meet the state's standards for this prestigious distinction. We commend the students for their commitment to working towards earning their the Seal and Mrs. Pradella for providing the instructional scaffolding and meaningful opportunities required to support their pathway to biliteracy.



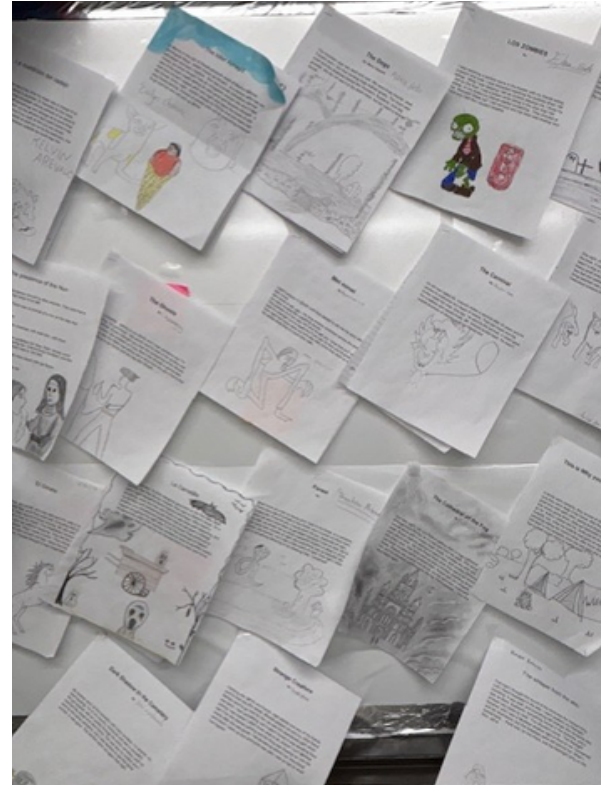
**SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY
"LOS INGENIOSOS TIGRES DE HEMPSTEAD"**



CONGRATULATIONS YOUNG WRITERS HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to Ms. Golub's Young Writers! We are proud to celebrate the outstanding accomplishment of Ms. Golub's ENL Emerging, Transitioning, and Expanding students, who have been selected to be published in Fright Club 2025 - Midnight Mysteries by Young Writers. Each student received a certificate recognizing their achievement and dedication to their craft. Hempstead High School will also receive a copy of the published book, featuring all of these wonderful writing pieces created by our talented students.

Their work is scheduled to be published on April 13, 2026. We are so proud of their creativity, hard work, and commitment to excellence!



HONORING YOUR DEDICATION

HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MS. DAY

Ms. Day fosters an engaging, student-centered classroom where learners are supported and motivated to participate. Students actively engage in discussions, collaboration, and literary analysis within an environment rooted in consistency and high expectations.

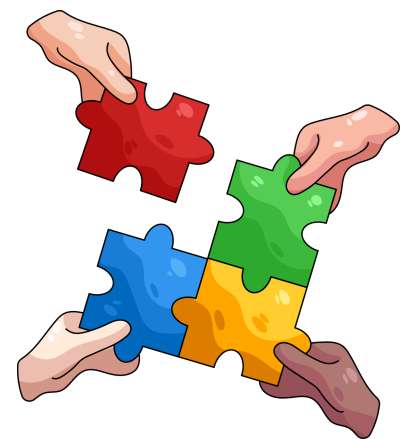
In partnership with her co-teacher, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Day consistently checks for understanding and remains responsive to student needs. When misconceptions arise, she utilizes targeted reteaching to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed. By integrating visual tools, purposeful questioning, and body movement, she brings clarity and energy to her instruction. These efforts, paired with strong student relationships, create a classroom culture where engagement and understanding flourish.



CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MS. CABAN

Ms. Caban creates an inviting and supportive classroom where students feel welcomed and encouraged to learn. Her warmth and strong rapport build trust, particularly for newcomers developing language skills and academic confidence.

By intentionally integrating clear content and language objectives through visuals, sentence frames, and leveled texts, Ms. Caban supports students in organizing their thinking and citing evidence. As a result, students remain actively engaged and utilize academic language throughout instruction. Highly responsive to student needs, she adjusts instruction in real time when concepts require reinforcement. Through individual conferencing and targeted supports, Ms. Caban accelerates language acquisition and literacy, helping many newcomers begin reading within just a few short months.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR SCHOLARS

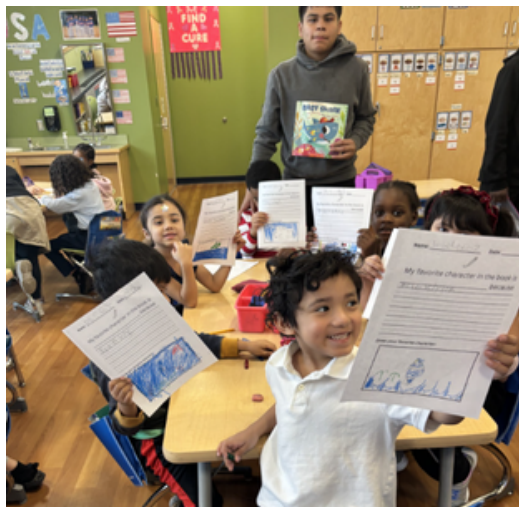
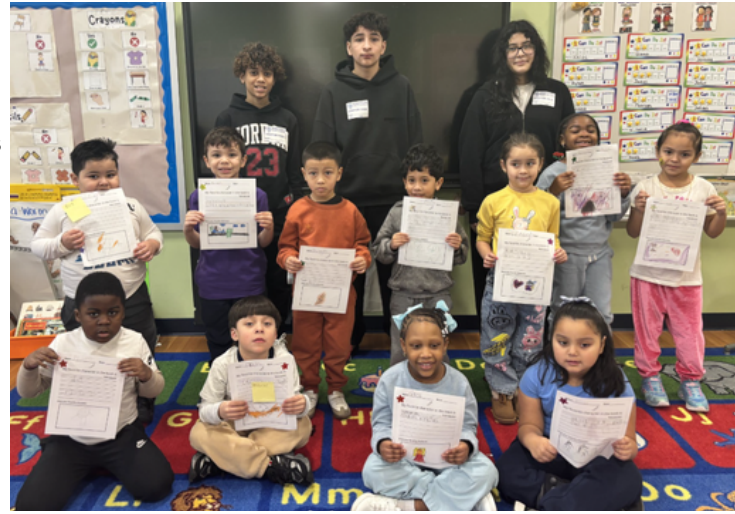
EVERY LANGUAGE HAS A STORY

We are thrilled to highlight the tremendous success of our recent **Book Buddies Reading Event, a collaboration between the Hempstead ABGS Future Educators and the Prospect Elementary School scholars.** This celebration of literacy and leadership brought our students together for a morning filled with meaningful conversations, purposeful reading, and joyful learning.

From the moment our Future Educators walked into the classrooms, the excitement was unmistakable. Students eagerly paired up to read stories, discuss characters, and complete writing activities that deepened their understanding of the texts. Their collaborations showcased not only academic skills, but also the social-emotional growth that comes from mentorship and partnership.

Our ABGS scholars demonstrated remarkable leadership, patience, and enthusiasm, embracing their roles as reading mentors. Prospect scholars, in turn, shined with curiosity, creativity, and a genuine love of learning throughout each activity. Together, they created an environment of trust, collaboration, and shared accomplishment.


A heartfelt thank you goes out to every teacher, support staff member, administrator, and scholar who helped bring our shared story to life. The students were absolutely thrilled, and they cannot wait for the next opportunity to learn and grow together!



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR ABGS FUTURE EDUCATORS!



"I'm a Super Reader!"



Before Reading


1. Look at the title. What do you see on the cover?
2. What do you think the story will be about?
3. Where do you think the story will take place?

During Reading

1. What is happening in the picture?
2. Who are the characters in the story?
3. What do you predict will happen next?

After Reading

1. What was your favorite part? Why?
2. How did the story make you feel?
3. Did the story remind you of something in your life?



EMPOWERING VOICES THROUGH LITERACY

GROWING READERS, BUILDING COMMUNITY



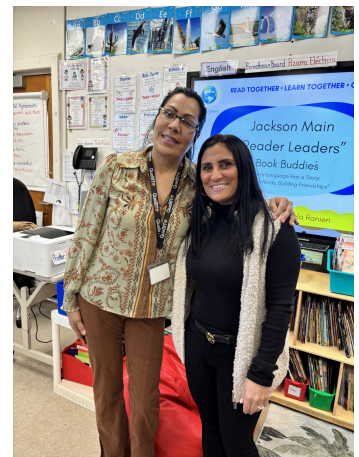
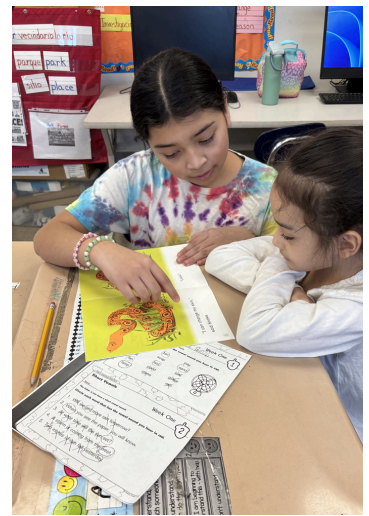
Reading Together, Growing Together
Book Buddies Highlights

JACKSON MAIN LAUNCHING BOOK BUDDIES PARTNERSHIPS

Jackson Main Scholars and our IB Ambassadors have officially launched Book Buddies, a new initiative designed to foster a love of reading across grade levels. During recess, students come together for fun, meaningful, and authentic reading experiences while building confidence, strengthening literacy skills, and creating joyful connections through books. This collaborative program reflects our school's commitment to community, leadership, and lifelong learning.



today a
READER
tomorrow a
LEADER



LEXIA LEARNING

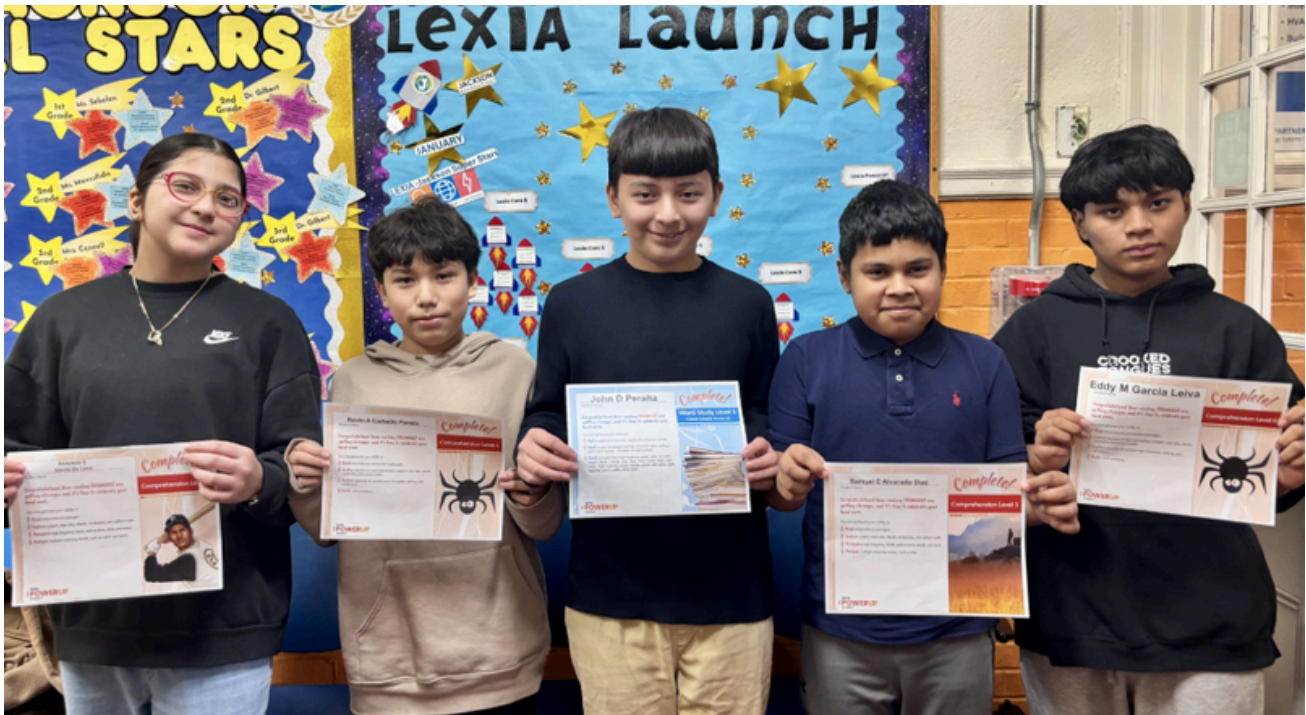
CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

We continue to shine through their dedication and progress in Lexia Learning! Each week, students work toward individualized literacy goals that strengthen foundational reading skills, build vocabulary, and support overall language development.

We are proud to recognize the many students who have met or exceeded their weekly Lexia targets, demonstrated perseverance, and shown significant growth in reading comprehension and language acquisition. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work, but also the ongoing support from teachers and families who encourage them every step of the way.

Congratulations to all our learners! Keep up the amazing work!

Together, we celebrate every milestone as our students grow into confident, capable readers.



LEXIA TOOLKIT CLICK LINK BELOW:
[ENGAGEMENT FROM LEXIA LEARNING](#)

LEXIA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
CLICK LINKS BELOW:

[LEXIA CORE5 STUDENT](#)
[ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATES](#)

[LEXIA ENGLISH STUDENT](#)
[CERTIFICATES](#)

Lexia Access

To support reading development and language acquisition:
Lexia English: Available for all ELLs
Lexia Core5: Available for ELLs in Grades K-5
Lexia PowerUp: Available for ELLs in Grade 6

INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & HIGH-LEVERAGE PRACTICES

The success we see in our classrooms is the result of intentional, evidence-based instructional design. By aligning language and content objectives, our educators create pathways for all learners to access rigorous curriculum.

Why It Matters:

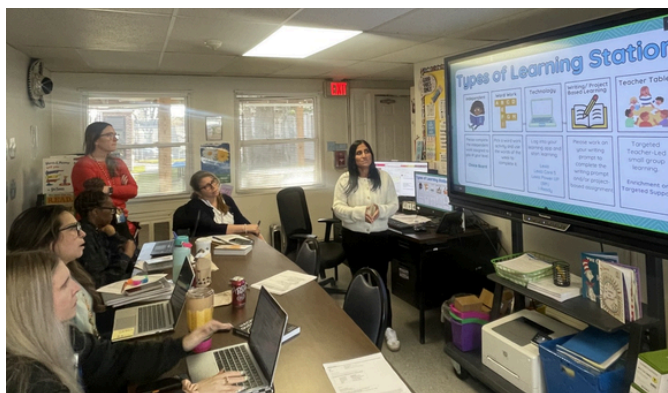
Our ELLs are showing high growth (76-80%) on i-Ready! To reach full proficiency, they need to speak and practice academic language daily. Below are the core practices driving this growth.

- 1. Orchestrating Academic Discourse:** Constructing Meaning: actively engage students in "sense-making." Have them work with a partner to sort new words, categorize concepts, and explain their thinking before writing.
- 2. Differentiating for Access & Rigor:**
 - **Tiered Texts:** Assign the same content topic at 5 different Lexile levels so every student can participate in the class discussion. **(Resource: Newsela)**
 - **Building Background Knowledge:** Use curated text collections and multimedia to "front-load" vocabulary and context before diving into complex literature.
 - **Native Language Bridges:** Utilize translated texts or summaries to help students bridge their native language knowledge to English.
 - **Embedded Supports:** Teach students to use tools like, glossaries, checklist, rubrics and graphic organizers to support their independence.
- 3. Systematic Scaffolding:**
 - **Routine-Based Scaffolds:** Ensure ELLs have a predictable structure. Use a "weekly roadmap" that moves from building background (Monday) to independent application (Friday).
 - **Small-Group Targeting:** Pull small groups for targeted instruction based on language needs (e.g., a specific writing focus or vocabulary gap) rather than just general support.
 - **The Reading-Writing Bridge:** Explicitly connect input to output. Use sentence frames and vocabulary logs to ensure that the words students read become the words they write.

ONBOARD PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



» **WELCOME
TO OUR
TEAM** «



- New Teachers at Hempstead had the opportunity to have a full day of professional training and we are so excited to welcome them to the team.
- Platform Training: i-Ready, Lexia, Amira, Magma, SAVVAS, BTR, and Great Minds.
- Operational Procedures: Step-by-step guidance for daily attendance, gradebook expectations, and report card requirements.
- Curriculum Deep Dives: UOI pacing guides, Eureka Math, and Magma Math integration.
- Intervention Review: Overview of intervention cycles and available instructional tools.

Special thank you to Ms. Ranieri, Mr. Noone, Mr. Creighton, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Thompson for facilitating and contributing their expertise—your leadership made the day a success.

