English as a Second Language (ESL)

6th – 8th Grade Public Overview

English as a Second Language (ESL)
1st Nine Weeks (August 11 – October 8)
Assessments NWEA MAP BOY Growth Reading: 9/8/26 DELPA BOY (Summit K-12): August 24–28

What are we learning? How can I help at home?

Unit 1: Identity and Belonging: The Stories We Tell About Ourselves

Essential Question: How does language shape who we are?

Timeline: August 11 – September 4

Essential Standards: 10A, 6F, 7C, 11D.ii

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Listen carefully in class and ask questions when something is not clear.
- Follow directions with more than one step.
- Guess what a text is about before reading, then check if the guess was right.
- Connect what they read to their own life.
- Figure out ideas the text does not say directly, using clues from the words.
- Tell why the author wrote the text and what they want readers to think or feel.
- Compare a story to a play version of the same story.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- Ask your child what they talked about in class today.
- Share your own name story. Ask your child to share theirs too.
- Ask your child why they think the author wrote a story or article.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Choose the right type of writing (story or poem) for the topic.
- Write full sentences with a subject and a verb.
- Use capital letters and end punctuation correctly.
- Use pronouns correctly (he, she, they, it).
- Use verb tenses correctly.
- Write a short story or poem about their own life.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Ask your child to write a few sentences about what makes them special.
- Read a sentence together. Ask, "Is this a full sentence? Does it have a subject and a verb?"
- Point to people or things and have your child use he, she, they, or it correctly.

- Have your child read their writing out loud and check for capital letters and punctuation.

Unit 2: Courage and Hard Choices

(This unit is covered in the 1st and 2nd Nine Week grading cycles)

Essential Question: How do the choices people make in hard times show who they are?

Timeline: September 8 – November 13

Essential Standards: 6F, 8A, 7D, 7C, 11D.ii, 11D.v, 11D.vii

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Use clues in the text to understand a character, and explain their thinking.
- Find the theme, or big lesson, in a story.
- Tell how a character's choices change the story.
- Explain how the time and place of a story affect what a character does.
- Retell what happened in a story using only the most important parts.
- Notice descriptive language and talk about what it really means.
- Talk about how word choice changes how a story feels.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- After reading, ask: "What choice did the character make, and why?"
- Talk about how time and place can change the choices people make.
- Ask your child to retell what happened in just a few sentences.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Plan writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Fix and improve a piece of writing after a first draft.
- Use pronouns that match the word they replace.
- Use verb tenses correctly and the same way throughout a piece.
- Write a story, poem, or personal narrative.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Ask your child to write about a time they made a hard choice.
- Practice pronouns: "The students brought their books" — ask why the pronoun matches.
- Have your child read their draft out loud and check that it flows well.
  Celebrate finished writing by having your child read it to the family.

English as a Second Language (ESL)
2nd Nine Weeks (October 19 – December 18)
Assessments District Formative Assessment (DFA 1): October 26

DELPA MOY (Summit K-12): December 7–18

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 2: Courage and Hard Choices (Continuation)

Essential Question: How do the choices people make in hard times show who they are?

Timeline: September 8 – November 13

Essential Standards: 6F, 8A, 7D, 7C, 11D.ii, 11D.v, 11D.vii

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Use clues in the text to understand a character, and explain their thinking.
- Find the theme, or big lesson, in a story.
- Tell how a character's choices change the story.
- Explain how the time and place of a story affect what a character does.
- Retell what happened in a story using only the most important parts.
- Notice descriptive language and talk about what it really means.
- Talk about how word choice changes how a story feels.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- After reading, ask: "What choice did the character make, and why?"
- Talk about how time and place can change the choices people make.
- Ask your child to retell what happened in just a few sentences.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Plan writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Fix and improve a piece of writing after a first draft.
- Use pronouns that match the word they replace.
- Use verb tenses correctly and the same way throughout a piece.
- Write a story, poem, or personal narrative.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Ask your child to write about a time they made a hard choice.
- Practice pronouns: "The students brought their books" — ask why the pronoun matches.
- Have your child read their draft out loud and check that it flows well.
  Celebrate finished writing by having your child read it to the family.

Unit 3: Taking Risks to Learn

Essential Question: Why do people take risks to learn new things or help others?

Timeline: November 16 – December 18

Essential Standards: 7D, 8A, 9D.i / 9E.i–F.i, 10A, 11D.i, 11D.v

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Retell an article or story in their own words, in a short way.
- Find the main idea of a text and the facts that support it.
- Ask questions about a text before, during, and after reading.
- Decide which details in a text are most important.
- Tell why the author wrote the text.
- Find the same big idea in more than one text, like a poem and a news article.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Ask your child to retell an article or story in a few sentences.
- Talk about a time your family took a risk to learn something new.
- Ask: "What is the main idea, and what facts support it?"
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Write full, correct sentences and avoid run-ons or fragments.
- Use commas and other punctuation correctly.
- Spell tricky words correctly (its/it's, there/their/they're).
- Write a clear piece of writing with facts and details.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Give your child a run-on or unfinished sentence and ask them to fix it.
- Practice tricky words: make flashcards for its/it's and there/their/they're.
- Ask your child to write a few sentences about a risk they would like to take.
- Read a paragraph together and count the full sentences.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

3rd Nine Weeks (January 6 – March 4)

Assessments

NWEA MAP MOY Growth Reading 1/26/27

District Formative Assessment (DFA 2): 2/3/2027

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 4: Forces That Shape Our World

Essential Question: Why do people take risks to learn new things or help others?

Timeline: January 6 – February 5

Essential Standards: 9D.i / 9E.i–F.i, 11D.i, 11D.vi

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Find the main idea of a nonfiction text and the facts that support it.
- Use headings, captions, and photos to understand a text better.
- Notice how photos and charts help explain an idea.
- Ask good questions to guide research on a topic.
- Tell the difference between a main source and a secondary source.

- Notice how a text is organized (compare, cause and effect, problem and solution).

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- Look at a nonfiction article together and point out headings and captions.
- Ask your child, "What is this article trying to explain? What facts support it?"
- Talk about a problem in your community and questions to research it.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Write full, correct sentences with subject and verb agreeing.
- Use connecting words like "although" and "because" to join ideas.
- Write a clear piece of nonfiction writing with facts and examples.
- Share research with the class in writing, speaking, or with pictures.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Have your child explain what they are researching and what they found.
- Practice joining two short sentences with a word like "although" or "because."
- Ask your child to plan their writing first: What is the main idea? What are the details?
- Have your child share what they learned with the family, out loud or with a poster.

Unit 5: Voices for Change

Essential Question: How have people used words to fight for what is right?

Timeline: February 15- March 26
Essential Standards: 9E.i–F.i, 10A, 11D.vi
Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Find the main claim in a persuasive text.
- Explain how the author tries to convince readers.
- Notice the other side of an argument in a text.
- Check if a source can be trusted.
- Combine ideas from more than one source to build an argument.
- Give a short talk using eye contact and a clear voice.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- Watch or read a speech together and ask, "What is the speaker asking people to do?"
- Talk about the difference between a strong argument and a trick, like ads that use exaggeration.
- Ask your child what makes a source trustworthy.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Use linking words like "however" and "therefore" to connect ideas.
- Write a clear piece of writing with a strong main idea.
- Write a letter that shares an opinion or asks for something.
- Support an opinion with facts and reasons.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Have your child write a short letter or email about something they care about.
- Practice linking words like "however" and "therefore" by joining two related sentences.

- After your child writes an opinion, ask them to add one fact that supports it.
- Read their writing together and check: Is the opinion clear? Is there enough support?

English as a Second Language (ESL)

4th Nine Weeks (March 15 – May 27)

Assessments

TELPAS testing window continues through 3/26/27
STAAR Reading: April 12 – 14
NWEA MAP EOY Growth Reading: 5/12/27
DELPA EOY (Summit K12): April 26 – 29

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 6: Survival and What We Owe Each Other

Essential Question: How do people and living things depend on each other to survive?

Timeline: March 22- April 16

Essential Standards: 7C, 8A, 11D.vii

Link to TEKS: Link to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Use evidence from the text and add their own thinking to explain an answer.
- Connect a text to their own life and to the world.
- Combine ideas from two or more texts to build new understanding.
- Notice how pictures and layout in a video or webpage help share a message.
- Review reading skills from the whole year to get ready for the STAAR test.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- Ask your child to compare two things they read this year. How are they alike or different?
- After watching a video or webpage together, ask what the pictures add to the message.
- When your child shares an opinion, ask them to explain their own thinking, not just point to the text.
- As STAAR gets closer, keep a calm and encouraging tone at home. Sleep and breakfast help on test days.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Use capital letters correctly for names, places, and short forms of words.
- Use apostrophes correctly to show ownership.
- Review writing skills from across the year.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Look for capital letters in names on signs or in the news.
- Practice apostrophes: “the dog's leash” vs. “the dogs' leashes.” Talk about the difference.
- Look back at writing your child did earlier in the year and talk about how it has improved.

Unit 7: Questions Worth Asking

Essential Question: What do I want to know about the world, and how do I find good answers?

Timeline: April 19- May 27

Essential Standards: 11D.i

Link to TEKS: Links to TEKS

Reading, Vocabulary & Speaking/Listening: In this unit, your child will—

- Pick a question to research based on their own interests.
- Change their question if needed as they learn more.
- Listen to others and build on their ideas during group work.
- Find and check information from different sources.
- Tell the difference between using someone's idea fairly and copying it.
- Share what they learned in writing, speaking, or with pictures.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's reading and speaking skills.

- Ask your child what question they are researching and why it interests them.
- Help your child think of good places to find trustworthy information.
- If your child shares a fact, ask "Where did you learn that?"
- Ask to see or hear your child's final project.
- Give your child quiet time to read on their own at home.
- Give your child time and a quiet space to finish Summit K12 lessons.

Writing & Grammar: In this unit, your child will—

- Fix writing using correct grammar, including small connecting words like "in" and "at."
- Write full, correct sentences with subject and verb agreeing.
- Choose the best way to share final work: written, spoken, or with pictures.

Home Connection: Practicing these skills helps strengthen your child's writing and grammar skills.

- Look over your child's writing together and check the small connecting words make sense.
- Ask your child why they chose their project format (poster, slideshow, written report).
- Celebrate the end of the year. Ask your child what they are most proud of.