

# ***ESL 1 Syllabus***

Fall 2022

**Teacher:** Mrs. Caitlyn Racer  
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**Room:** TBD  
**Canvas:** <http://madisonschoolsva.instructure.com>

Welcome!

*ESL 1 is a class for students who are learning to speak English as a second language. In this course, we will learn both informal and formal English. We will learn valuable communication skills and begin both reading and writing in English. We will also focus on listening and speaking. Students will have daily learning activities that include the four domains of English language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We will do many projects and hands-on experiences to reinforce learning a new language, ensuring students have ample time to practice what they are learning.*

## **Classroom Values:**

**In our classroom, students are expected to:**

- follow all school rules as written in the handbook
- treat classmates, teachers, and classrooms with respect
- Show kindness

Academic Expectations:

**During instructional time, students are expected to:**

- Listen with the intent to understand and ask questions for clarification
- Engage and participate in all classroom discussions and activities
- Avoid interrupting or speaking over others

## **Late/ Make-up/ Missing Assignment Policy:**

Late or missing assignments may be made up within the quarter they were assigned (no late assignments will be accepted after the quarter end date).

All missing assignments will receive a 0 score in the gradebook until submitted.

**Needed Supplies:**

- Spiral Notebook (provided)
- Folder (provided)
- Writing utensils

**Canvas Info:**

Weekly assignments and class information will be posted in Canvas. Assignments, resources, and make-up work will also be accessible there.

**Communication:**

The best way to contact me is via email ([cracer@madisonschools.k12.va.us](mailto:cracer@madisonschools.k12.va.us)) or through TalkingPoints. Please send me a message and I can connect with you on TalkingPoints if you prefer. I will do my best to respond within 24 academic hours. I will be happy to schedule a phone conversation or conference as needed.

*I look forward to this semester of learning with you! Please let me know if you have any questions and/ or concerns at any time during the semester.*

**Grading and Assessment**

The grading for this course will always be based on what you can actually DO with English and will be based on your unique English language development.

Assessment in this course honors the progression of second language learning—from listening, to reading, to writing, and finally speaking. Student assessment in ESL 1 will cover all four communication modes, however our emphasis will be mainly on listening and reading.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

- Formative (classwork) - 40%
- Summative (assessments) - 60%

ESL grades are based on a performance based system. All individual formative and summative assessments will be graded based on the following criteria:

| Performance Descriptor | Letter Grade | Gradebook Grade | What it means  |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Advanced               | A+           | 100             | Your answers show that you understood everything, even those “stretch” details or extra structures that I don’t expect you to know. You add your own ideas, perspective, and style into what you do. Your performance shows confidence and <b>you are going above and beyond the expectation.</b>                            |
| Proficient             | A-           | 90              | Your answers show that you understood everything that we have targeted in class, but perhaps you are uncertain about some of the stretch details or words, which is okay. You consistently meet the target proficiency level, and you are utilizing the target structures correctly. <b>You are meeting the expectation.</b> |
| Developing             | B-           | 80              | Your answers show that you get the main idea, but perhaps do not yet comprehend a few key structures.<br>Your performance shows that you can do some of the things needed to hit the target, but you need a little more support to do all of them.   |
| Emerging               | C-           | 70              | Your answers show that you understand some pieces but have some large holes in comprehension and are uncomfortable without help. You know what you are supposed to be able to do, but you need help putting the pieces together so that you can hit the target.  |
| Beginning              | F            | 60              | Your answers show that you are a bit confused and probably feeling frustrated. You need some help to get started working toward the target.  |
| Not sufficient         | N/A          | 0               | You have not done enough for your performance to be evaluated.   |

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Quarter 1 - 45%

Quarter 2 - 45%

Accumulated Learning Experience (Final Exam/Project) - 10%