



# Middle School EL Courses

## Overall Secondary Philosophy for English Learners

Many students who enroll in the Dublin City Schools arrive with diverse levels of English Proficiency. Our English Learner program exists to help these students develop and strengthen academic and social English language skills. We believe that academic success hinges on the acquisition of speaking, listening, reading, and writing proficiency in English. English Learners become critical thinkers and independent learners in English through a variety of learning experiences in an environment that increases self-confidence and promotes risk-taking. Acquiring American cultural competence while respecting the student's native culture is key. The English Learning courses stress listening, informal and formal speaking, reading comprehension/strategies, writing, vocabulary development, and research skills aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and will eventually align with the Common Core Standards for Language Arts. Grammar and spelling are taught through the writing process in addition to explicit instruction. English Learners are given equal access to standards and content area learning as their peers. English Learners acquire both English language proficiency and content area knowledge concurrently, so some students will require additional time, and all will require appropriate instructional support, comprehensible input, and aligned assessments. We believe all students in the English Learner Program can achieve the literacy demands required in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and we are committed to supporting them in this endeavor.

### Grades 6, 7 and 8 Major Categories of Study

- Reading
  - Foundational skills
  - Informational texts
  - Literature
- Writing
  - Production (writing process)
  - Application (argument (opinion), narrative, informative/explanatory)
- Speaking and Listening
  - Comprehension and collaboration
  - Presentation
- Language
  - Vocabulary acquisition and use
  - Conventions (grammar and usage, spelling, mechanics)