

SLPS TESOL ExcELLEnce

Issue 1

September, 2020

Teacher of the Year 2019-2020 Lisa Rigg, ESOL Teacher at Mann Elementary



[Educator of the Year Video](#)

Educator of the Year

The Mission of the Saint Louis Public Schools Educator of the Year Program is to honor, promote, and celebrate excellence in the teaching ranks. The District strives to acknowledge the people behind some of the most robust learning experiences occurring in the District and rewards them through a public celebration and year-round career progression opportunities to scale impact across classrooms.

SLPS ESOL Program is honored to have Lisa Rigg, ESOL Teacher at Mann Elementary, as the award recipient of the Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 in the Specialty category and wish her to continue her teaching and learning journey with ELLs in our district!

ESOL Program Committees

Submitted by Elena Okanovic, ESOL Coordinator

The SLPS ESOL program supports a shared vision in the decision-making process. Therefore, we believe each of you can make a difference in our program by your active participation in the program's committees for the current school year.

Leadership, PD, and Parent Involvement committees will meet virtually three times a year.

Leadership Committee coordinates program initiatives and makes program-wide recommendations as it relates to funding, accountability, and the overall vision of the ELL program.

PD Committee focuses on ELL PD for SLPS district staff. The committee explores ways to increase staff participation in ELL PD opportunities within the district and outside SLPS.

Parent Involvement Committee focuses on developing ways to increase ESOL parent involvement through a variety of offerings.

To join one or more committees, please complete the following survey (see below) with your intent to join one or more committees **before Friday, October 9.**

ESOL Committee [Survey Link](#)

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Language Access Updates

Submitted by Ms. Rhodes, Language Access Team

To support your efforts in connecting with ELL parents, please visit the district's [Language Access Services](#) website to watch a short video discussing ways to ensure meaningful communication with ELL parents in your school. The district language access team can provide the following language access services: document **translation**, **robocalls** in multiple languages, **personalized phone calls** and **interpretation**, which can be in person when schools are in brick and mortar operation, telephonic via 3-way calling or via Teams & Zoom platforms.

This month's newly added translations are:

1. [Translated Technology Resources](#)

FORM	English	Arabic	Bosnian	Dari	Nepali	Spanish	Swahili	Vietnamese
Apple iPad Applications	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
EDU Quick Start Guide	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Hot Spot Directions - Model 1	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
How to Log into Teams	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Hot Spot Directions - Model 2	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

The following documents have been translated by the Language ACCESS team per the district's Assessment Office request. To have access to the translated copies, contact the Assessment Office.

2. **SCANTRON® Performance Series Testing at Home** parent letter:

Arabic Bosnian Dari Nepali Spanish Swahili Vietnamese

Performance Series Testing at Home

3. **RENAISSANCE® Administering Star Assessments Remotely** - Family Guide:

Arabic Bosnian Dari Nepali Spanish Swahili Vietnamese

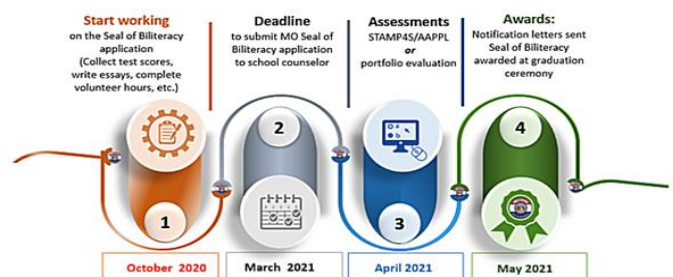


Thank you for contributing to meaningful communication with ELL parents in a language they understand by using SLPS language access services.

Seal of Biliteracy

Submitted by Erna Kadic, ESOL Counselor

On June 28, 2018, the Saint Public School District adopted the Seal of Biliteracy policy. The Seal is awarded to all graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and any of the World's Languages. Students who are Native English speakers studying a foreign language and English Language Learners acquiring English and maintaining their native language are eligible for the Seal. The Seal of Biliteracy consists of 3 different criteria: English, Languages other than English, and Sociocultural Competency. Every graduating high school has an appointed School Counselor who will be working with high school seniors to complete the Seal of Biliteracy packet. The timeline below provides the necessary steps for students to achieve the award. Students are able to access all of the application documents on our website: <http://www.slps.org/Biliteracy>



ELL Counseling Services

Submitted by Erna Kadic, ESOL Counselor

ELL Counseling services are available virtually for the new 2020-2021 school year. Here are some of the logistics that we are utilizing in order to provide student supports:

- Individual, small group or class counseling sessions available to meet student needs
- ELL Counseling services are offered virtually, utilizing district approved platform to teach weekly lessons
- ELL Counseling referral should to be filled out by the school counselor to initiate support for small group or individual counseling. ELL Teacher should discuss with the school counselor in their building to determine whether an ELL Counseling referral is the next step based on the student needs.
- 3-way calls can be used for teacher/counselor check-in

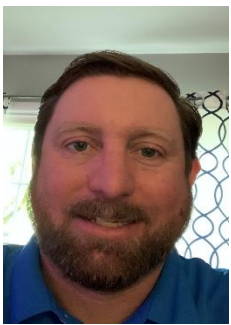
To complete the ELL Counseling request form, please visit our website: [ELL Counseling](#)





Rachel Russ, ESOL Teacher at Buder

My name is Rachel Russ and I am excited to begin work as an ESOL teacher at Buder Elementary. I attended Loyola University in Chicago and obtained a bachelors in Elementary Education with minors in history, science, and English as a Second Language. After college, I stayed in Chicago and taught in the Chicago Public School district. I then moved to California and taught in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. I have just moved back to St. Louis and am thrilled to be working for St. Louis Public Schools. I attended K-12 schools here and am honored to be working alongside my former teachers and peers in this beautiful city.



Michael Dunphy, ESOL Teacher at Woerner

Hello, my name is Mike Dunphy and I am excited to join the ESOL team at Woerner Elementary. I have been a classroom teacher at Woerner in grades 2-5 over the past five years and really enjoyed working with our large ELL population. This drove me to receive my certification in our field as well as pursue a Master's Degree from UMSL. My previous degrees include a BA from California State University in Comm/Mass Media and a BS in Elementary Education from UMSL. I enjoy travelling and being outdoors on my time off and look forward to working with ELL students and their families in the future!



Dawn McClain, ESOL Teacher at NCNAA @Roosevelt

My name is Dawn McClain. I grew up in the southern US but left at my first opportunity and lived in the Philippines for a few years before settling in St Louis where I raised my two children and finished school at Washington University with a degree in History and Cultural Anthropology. I completed certification for secondary social sciences and did master's work in American Culture Studies at Wash U, and Special Education at Fontbonne.

I taught at Soldan International Studies High School for four years where I was privileged to be part of early SIOP cohorts and attended/presented at MELL 2008 in KC, before moving to Florida where I began work as a youth services provider for the Tampa Library System. I enjoyed working with youth in libraries, returning to St Louis after a brief working vacation as a substitute teacher in Long Beach, CA and working at the Central Library downtown. For the past 4 years I have been teaching and training Direct Support Professionals who work for persons with intellectual developmental disabilities in SWMO where I specialized in teaching Positive Behavior Supports in conjunction with the MO Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities.

I am very happy to be back in St Louis to work with the teachers and students at the Nahed Chapman New American Academy at Roosevelt. I will be completing master's work in TESOL with Mizzou.





Sheila Turan, ESOL Teacher at Mason

Hello! My name is Sheila Turan and I am a 1st generation Bosnian-American. My family came to the United States in 1994 from Bosnia. I have one brother and a beautiful baby niece. I like to spend my time baking (my favorite dessert is Baklava!), cooking (my favorite food is Burek!), listening to music, and spending time with my family.

I recently graduated with my Bachelor's at Webster University, and am finishing up my Masters in TESOL there as well. During my time at Webster, I went to Leiden, The Netherlands, to study educational systems, and I also went to Spain to study Spanish and Spanish culture. I feel that the key to education is understanding one another and where we come from. As an ELL teacher, I hope to incorporate my students' cultures into the classroom!

I have been a part of the Mason Dragons since 2015. I worked as an ELL tutor and am happy to continue working here as a new ESOL teacher. I am excited to begin this school year with Mason, and I am looking forward to making this year GREAT!



Amber C. Mitchell, ESOL Teacher at Oak Hill Elementary

Hello, my name is Amber C. Mitchell and I am so excited to be a part of the ESOL team at Oak Hill Elementary! I have taught for seven years at Oak Hill Elementary in various grade levels, and I am excited to start this new chapter in my career. I received my BA from Harris-Stowe State University in Elementary Education. I currently hold a MA in School Administration from Lindenwood University. I am working towards a second Master's of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) from Webster University. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my energetic 6-year-old son Noah. As I begin this school year, I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my goal of working with English Language Learners. I am also elated to be a part of Oak Hill's team, where #wewin with academic success and positive character.



Alyssa Tillett, ESOL Teacher at Soldan HS

My name is Alyssa Tillett and I am teaching ESOL at Soldan. I started my professional career in Hospitality and Tourism working in hotels and travel companies planning trips and other events. I have always enjoyed meeting new people and seeing new places but realized that the only portion of my job I found fulfilling was training and teaching new staff. Almost on a whim, I quit my job and moved to Mexico to teach English. I decided to teach full time and it has been the best decision I have ever made. I am from Indiana and started teaching Spanish and French at IPS while I completed my Master's degree and ESOL certification. I recently moved to St Louis and really enjoy this city so far. This is my 3rd year teaching in the US and my 1st as an ESOL teacher and I love it! When I'm not teaching, I like to be outdoors and trying new restaurants or recipes. I'm looking forward to discovering all that St Louis has to offer!



Andrea Peters, ESOL Teachers at Mullanphy

Hello everyone! My name is Andrea Peters and I am pleased to have joined the ESOL team at Mullanphy ILC this year. I have a B.A. in Applied Linguistics and Master's in TESOL, and recently completed my elementary certification through UMSL. I have enjoyed teaching elementary ESL students in China as well as teaching 4th grade at an international school in Seoul, but most recently have taught ESL and Citizenship through Parkway-Rockwood Adult Education.

I had the privilege of doing my student teaching at Mann Elementary and learning from the ESOL team there, which drew me to joining the SLPS to finally begin teaching young EL's in St. Louis. I have 4 kids, and enjoy playing games with them, taking long walks on these beautiful Fall days, and reading a good book on the weekend with some coffee. I wish you all the very best as we embark upon this unprecedented school year.



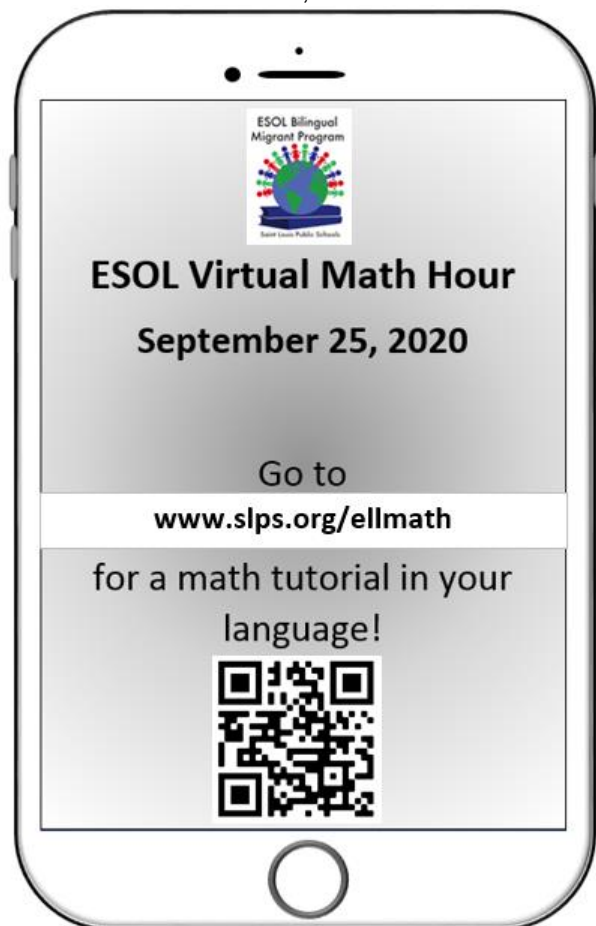
Submitted by Tuyet Nguyen, Bilingual Parent Specialist

ELL PARENT MEETING

The ESOL Office hosted a Virtual Parent Meeting on September 9th with ELL parents using ZOOM. Fifty-five ELL parents in total participated in one of the six language groups available. The parent meeting was held in six separate virtual meetings in Arabic, English, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese.

ELL MATH HOUR

This year, the ESOL Office will host ELL Math Hour on District PD days. ELL families are able to access math tutorials in English or their first language from our new ELL Math Hour webpage at www.slps.org/ellmath. Thirty-five ELL families participated in the ELL Virtual Math Hour by picking up math cans from the ESOL office. There are counters on the webpage to track the number of tutorial views, also.



Free WIDA eWorkshops for Educators Supporting Multilingual Learners

Submitted by Jessica Brookman, ESOL Coordinator

Free, on-demand eWorkshops for educators supporting multilingual learners are available in the eLearning Center on the WIDA website. Workshop content is appropriate for school leaders, AICs, ESOL teachers, and K-12 classroom teachers.

- **Engaging Multilingual Newcomers** explores what all educators can do to welcome and engage multilingual newcomers and their families into their classrooms and schools.
- **Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics** helps math educators recognize and design mathematics instruction that strengthens both mathematical reasoning and language development for multilingual learners.
- **Doing and Talking STEM** is designed to support K–12 content and ESL teachers as they interact with the resources introduced on the Doing and Talking Math and Science website.
- **Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners through Inquiry** focuses on planning inquiry-based instruction to identify the benefits and investigate the components of an inquiry approach while exploring how to consider the content and language needs of multilingual learners in social studies.
- **Leading for Equity: Classroom Walkthrough** introduces a simple resource to add to your current walkthrough practices that provides specific attention to the principles of exemplary and equitable teaching for multilingual learners.
- **WIDA Writing Rubric eWorkshop** provides information for grades 1-12 educators who work on writing development with multilingual learners. The series is appropriate to use individually or with a Professional Learning Community (PLC).

Go to <https://wida.wisc.edu> and select WIDA Secure Portal. WIDA.us log in is required to access eWorkshops.

If you need a new log in or help with resetting your current log in, please contact Samir Mujagic, ESOL Data Specialist at Samir.Mujagic@slps.org.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
October 1 -21	Benchmark A Implementation	n/a	at your site
October 21-23	Benchmark A Scoring window	n/a	at your site
October 14	ESOL Parent Meeting	6:00-7:00 PM	virtual meeting
October 24	Update Monitoring forms for Quarter	n/a	One Drive

Additional ESOL PD Opportunities

If you are interested, refer to the ELL Handbook Ch. 23 and Appendices 23.1 and 23.2 for procedures.



SAVE THE DATE!

ELevate Virtual Mini-Conference Thursday, November 5
ELevate + EdTech: Supporting ELs in Virtual Learning

This half-day virtual mini-conference will focus on the resources, tools and best practices to support the EL community through virtual learning. Attend virtual breakout sessions and workshops presented by local leaders in EL education, as well as educators from around the country. You will learn innovative strategies for improving instruction and engaging students in a virtual setting. Breakout sessions will be available (on demand) for 30 days after the conclusion of the conference.

Registrants attending this virtual conference will receive a discount to the ELevate: Elevating English Learner Success Conference scheduled for June 8 & 9, 2021.



Michelle Makus Shory, Ed.S., is a District ESL Instructional Coach in Louisville, KY. She is passionate about literacy and helped establish Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Louisville. She is also a Google Certified Trainer, Apple Educator and Microsoft Innovative Educator.



Irina McGrath is an ESL expert serving the Jefferson County Public Schools as an Education Recovery Specialist with the Kentucky Department of Education. She is co-director of the Louisville Writing Project (LWP) and a University of Louisville & Indiana University Southeast adjunct teaching ESL/ENL Instruction as well as Assessment, Literature and Cultural and Linguistic Diversity courses. Irina is a Google Certified Trainer and Microsoft Innovative Educator.



Esther Park is an ENL/ELA teacher, curriculum writer and an online adjunct faculty member in Northern Virginia. She has been teaching high school English language learners for 15 years both in private and public school settings. She is passionate about creating innovative digital content and integrating technology into instruction to promote active learning, engagement and literacy for all learners.

Registration Opens Soon!
 \$49 EdPlus Members || \$60 Non-members