

**ELL Literacy**  
**2009-2010 Syllabus**  
**Mr. Jay Gainer, ELL Teacher**  
**Aki Kurose Middle School**

**Overview of ELL Literacy**

ESL Literacy will focus on the English language and its uses. There will be an opportunity to write every day, putting ideas and thoughts onto paper. Special minilessons will help students develop new writing skills as they take a piece of writing from the prewriting stage through publication. We will primarily be using the program *Writer's Workshop*, by Lucy Calkins during our writing time.

Each day, during our reading time students will be using the program, *Inside-Language, Literacy and Content*. This program provides intensive work to build academic vocabulary and language, to learn reading strategies, and to develop skill in comprehension and literary analysis. In addition, the students will be reading literature that is interesting to them and will be at a comfortable reading level.

**Student Reading Goals**

Students will be able to:

- Build vocabulary through a wide spectrum of reading.
- Apply word recognition strategies to read fluently.
- Demonstrate evidence of reading comprehension.
- Understand and apply knowledge of text components to enhance comprehension.
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize information in a wide variety of texts.

**Student Writing Goals**

Students will be able to:

- Understand and use the steps of the writing process. These include:
  1. Prewriting-generating ideas and gathering information
  2. Rough Draft-elaborating on a topic and supporting ideas
  3. Revising-collecting input and enhancing text and style
  4. Editing-using resources to correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage
  5. Publishing
- write for different audiences and in a variety of forms including narratives, expository essays, literary essays, poetry, short fiction and memoir
- Develop a topic or theme; organize written thoughts with a clear beginning, middle, and end; use transitional sentences and phrases to connect related ideas; and write coherently and effectively.

**Materials Used**

*Chapter Books*  
*Inside-Language, Literacy, Content*  
*Writer's Workshop Units*

## **Grading Policies**

### **Academic Grade**

The grade will reflect a student's progress on in-class work, homework, Group and individual projects, presentations, written assignments and tests.

The following scale will apply:

90-100% = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69% = D

Below 60%=E

### **Bio**

Before coming to Aki Kurose/South Shore, I taught for seven years at two different schools on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. I am starting my 24<sup>th</sup> year at Aki Kurose Middle School. I love working at Aki Kurose because of all the diversity that it offers. There is so much that I learn from my students.

I attended the University of Northern Colorado where I majored in Elementary Education and Social Science. I received a Master's Degree at Northern Arizona University in Reading and Learning Disabilities. Finally, I received an endorsement in teaching English Language Learners through my studies at Heritage College.

I will be teaching a three different Ell Literacy blocks this year. I strive to help each student reach their fullest potential and I establish a classroom environment where each of my students is able to develop a positive self-esteem.

**Note to Parents:** I am looking forward to working with your daughter/son. If you have questions or would like to set up a conference please call me at School (252-7779) or e-mail me at [jhgainer@seattleschools.org](mailto:jhgainer@seattleschools.org).

Let's have a great year together!