

# ENL DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



November 2020



## DID YOU KNOW?

*The English Language Learner (ELL) Identification process takes place when a student first enrolls in a school in New York State. This typically happens at the beginning of kindergarten, or when students enter from another state or country. This process only happens once and is outlined by New York State regulations. These regulations do not provide an opportunity for an ELL to opt out of English as a New Language (ENL) services. A parent, guardian or teacher can request a review of ELL identification within 45 school days. If a student enters our district after attending another school in New York State, we use records from that school to determine ELL status and proficiency level.*

## TEACHING TIP

*Scaffolding and differentiating are not the same thing. Scaffolding is a term used to describe appropriate assistance provided to students to learn what alone would have been too difficult for them to learn on their own. Scaffolding is breaking up the learning into chunks and providing a tool, or structure, with each chunk. Scaffolds are crucial for ELLs' success. Scaffolds to provide for ELLs: modeling, pre-teach academic vocabulary, use graphic organizers to make learning more visual, support writing by using sentence stems and sentence frames.*

## ENL in Gates Chili

*We currently have 221 ELLs in Gates Chili. All six of our buildings have English as a New Language (ENL) programs, and we have 13 ESOL teachers. Our program has been growing steadily over the past several years.*

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# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## FAMILY FOCUS

Anyone who works in Gates Chili knows a Saeed. In fact, there are nineteen students spread across our district. Siblings: Monzala, Yaqoob, Fadhel, Ahlam, Zaraa, Saleh all live together in one home. In another home their cousins Alrobadi, Shalall, Toufeeq and younger siblings Nadheah and Hamid live. In a third home their other cousins, Salamat, Yousef, Aishah, Katabah, Wafa, Abdullah, Alshureek, Al Gabal, Fahd and Salim reside. And former Disney Dragons, Nora and Asmaa moved to Michigan last year! The Saeed's came to Gates Chili in 2017, after moving from Yemen. They left Yemen because of the war and came to the United States to reunite with their grandfather who has been living here since the 1990s. They came for freedom and the hope for their children to get a good education and have more opportunities. During difficult times they find strength in each other and stay patient. When first arriving in the United States, they found things to be extremely different from back home... there were a lot of trees and grass! They felt very welcome in Gates Chili because many other students are Muslim and speak Arabic. "One time a student asked me why I was wearing my hijab, and at first I was worried and thought why she was asking me that, does she not like me? I explained why we wore them and then after that there wasn't an issue." The Saeeds love being a part of the Gates Chili community.

Viktoriia is a seventh grade student from Ukraine in Mrs. Henchen's class. Viktoriia had a lot to say about why she loves health class. "Mrs. Henchen takes time to explain, she uses videos and pictures, she gives us a chance to talk and ask questions." Health class is a place where the teachers have created a safe space where students feel comfortable enough to share their thoughts and ask questions. Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Henchen love working with ELLs because they are eager to learn. Mrs. Henchen says, "through participation and discussions during Health class, we all become more culturally aware and can appreciate diversity within our school." Both teachers differentiate to meet individual needs. This is done by focusing on what students can do, focusing on essential vocabulary, and by helping students make personal connections to the lessons.

