

ENL DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Fun with Friends

ENL Summer Program

Many of our English Language Learners will be engaging in our ENL Summer Program this year. The elementary program is for students entering grades 1-5 and will be taught by Miss Benedett and Miss Cox. The secondary program is for students entering grades 6-11 and will be taught by Mrs. Meza and Ms. Taylor.

Students are invited to the program based on teacher recommendation and their English proficiency level. Because many students have exposure only to their native languages in their home, the summer program is a valuable time to maintain their English knowledge. Teachers use hands-on learning strategies to make sure that the summer program is both fun and educational for all involved!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gustavo and Yeron Acebal-Vargas, brothers from La Havana, Cuba, came to Rochester in late 2019. They started school at Gates Chili High School in the fall of 2020. Both students have improved their English tremendously, despite the challenges of arriving to the U.S. just before the pandemic began. Gustavo has a background in dance, as his previous school in Cuba was primarily a dance academy. He will attend high school for one more year, graduating in 2023. We hope to see more of his dance performances along the way. Yeron started on a traditional academic track in Cuba and will graduate this month. He earned his New York State Seal of Biliteracy for Spanish this spring, demonstrating his fluency in both English and Spanish. Although he hasn't decided what to study yet, Yeron plans to attend community college in the fall.



The Acebal-Vargas brothers sharing their talents with our community!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Emily Reale

A high school friend inspired me to become an ENL teacher. She immigrated from China and was an ELL herself. As we became close friends, I was able to learn more about her ENL teacher, and how she worked to bridge the language barrier along with helping my friend assimilate into this new culture while still honoring the culture she came from.

Throughout my past 4 years of teaching, I have found that the relationships I form with my students is what I love the most about this field. I love that within the relationships I have with my students, they are not only learning from me, but I am constantly learning from them as well! I couldn't imagine working anywhere other than Gates Chili for two reasons:

- The teachers and staff we have here are some of the most supportive, creative, and collaborative people I have ever met.
- This district provides endless opportunities for us all to hone our craft and progress our skills.

I earned my BA in TESOL Education from Niagara University in 2018 and recently earned my MEd in Literacy Education from SUNY Brockport this past May.

One of my favorite things to do is spend time in my backyard (which happens to be Lake Ontario)! During the warmer months, you can find me on our jetski, kayaking, and walking my dogs on the beach. I minored in ASL during my time at Niagara University but in the future, I would love to learn Arabic and Ukrainian, as these are 2 of the most common languages among our ELLs at NAS!



Miss Reale & friends at 5th grade track meet.

ENL PICNIC

On Friday, June 3, Secondary ENL students and teachers gathered in Lions Park for our Spring picnic. Due to COVID, this was our first Secondary picnic since 2019, and we were thrilled to have all of the students and their families back in the park to celebrate the end of the year together. The weather was beautiful, and students enjoyed playing soccer and volleyball. A special thank you to all of the teachers and staff who took time to visit the park and see our students and families. It was a great event!

The ENL department hosts two family picnics each year. Our Fall picnic is for our ENL families K-12, while the Spring picnic is a special event for just Middle and High School ELLs. Both are held at Lion's Park in Gates. The ENL Department is already planning for our Fall picnic on October 6!



Playing volleyball at the Spring picnic