

ESL NEWS *from Mrs. Jones*

February 2020

I am happy to announce that ACCESS testing is almost over! The K-8 students have been carefully demonstrating their improved skills in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing over the past month on this assessment. Most of this test was completed online, though the primary grades (1st-3rd) completed the Writing portion of the test on paper. Kindergarteners were assessed individually, responding to oral questions about a read-aloud, matching words with corresponding pictures, and writing a summary of a story.

When will we see ACCESS scores?

Though we are very excited to see the scores, those results will not be available until the summer. Parents will receive scores and information about next year's placement in the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

What do ACCESS scores mean?

Students who receive a composite score of 4.8 or higher *may* test out of the ESL program. This score consists of a combination of the Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing scores. Please be aware that it takes most students up to 7 years to acquire a new language. It is recommended that students receive ESL support services for a minimum of 3 years, even if they score 4.8 or higher. Students who exit the ESL program will continue to be monitored to ensure that they are successful without this additional support.

Do you need something translated?

The CPS website has a Google Translate tool that allows you to read all the materials on the site in these languages: Arabic, Chinese, Filipino, Polish, Spanish, Ukranian, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

What's next?

ESL classes resume the week of February 17! Students will continue to work in small groups with myself and receive the support that they need in Reading and Writing. When acquiring a new language, writing is the last and most challenging area to master. Students will practice reading and responding to complex texts. We will work on using more descriptive language and writing more complex sentences. Students will practice organizing their writing into paragraphs that include introduction and conclusion sentences.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support!

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