

# ESL Newsletter

*Harmony Public Schools  
ESL Program*

## HSI- Laredo

### IMPORTANT DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
DISTANCE LEARNING**  
MONDAY AUGUST 17, 2020
- **FIRST DAY OF IN-PERSON  
SCHOOL**  
TO BE DETERMINED
- **LABOR DAY - STUDENT HOLIDAY**  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

### ESL RESOURCES: COVID- 19 CRISIS

- [Coronavirus: Multilingual Resources for Schools and Communities](#)
- [Communicating with ELs and Their Families During School Closures](#)

### TRANSLATION APPS

Google Translate App

It provides a translation by just pointing your camera lens at the text. It can translate signs, words, and text on a handout, or on a website just by holding your phone up to it. It can also translate verbal conversations.

[Video](#)



### What is the purpose of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program?

ESL programs are designed to make grade level academic content accessible to English learners. ESL programs target English language development, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, through academic content instruction that is linguistically and culturally responsive.

### What are the benefits of an ESL Program?

Academic instruction is provided by teachers who are trained in effective second language acquisition methods; understand the specific language needs of English learners and how to address them; recognize the benefits of an English learner's academic, cultural, and linguistic background; and can adapt instruction, pacing, and materials to target an English learner's language proficiency level. Linguistic accommodations on state assessments can be provided as needed.

Campus Information:

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## PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHTS

1. The purpose of the Home Language Survey (HLS) and the impact of your responses on your child's education.
2. The right to know that your child will be assessed for English proficiency if a language other than English is stated in the HLS.
3. The right to make a correction on the HLS only if your child has not yet been assessed for language proficiency and if the change is made within 2 weeks.
4. The right to written notice by your district's Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) that your child has been classified as an English learner in the parents' primary language
5. The right for your child to receive all content instruction as all other children and participate equitably in school.
6. The right to receive information in a language you understand about other programs & services.
7. The right to approve ESL services for your child.
8. The right to deny ESL program services.
9. If you have denied program services for your child, your child: will still be identified as an English learner until he/she meets reclassification.
10. The right to annually assess your child's English language proficiency in the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing to meet state and federal requirements.
11. The right to receive information on your child's progress on language development.
12. The right to written notice to approve your child's reclassification as English proficient and his or her exit from the ESL program.
13. The right to request continuation of ESL program services once your child has been reclassified.

## 5 WAYS TO KEEP STUDENTS MOTIVATED DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

1. **Understand the expectation for distance learning.** There are screen time considerations for all students. Older students can handle longer amounts of time than younger students.
2. **Determine what type of activities work best for your child.** Are there certain types of distance learning activities that your child prefers over others? The answers to these questions can help your child's teacher plan for learning experiences that work best for your child.
3. **Encourage movement.** Kids need to move frequently. Allow time for exercise before your child needs to focus on a distance learning task. Some children are able to better focus better standing. Consider having your computer on a raised surface so that your child can stand.
4. **Reduce Distractions**  
When possible, reduce distractions when your child is completing schoolwork. A designated workspace that is comfortable for your child will be helpful.
5. **Give Your Child and Yourself a Break**  
If something is too challenging, or your child has hit a frustration level, it's okay to stop the activity and give them a break. It's also okay to slow down the pace, which means giving your child time to think and process information or participating in segments of learning one at a time rather than trying to complete everything in one sitting.  
—From John Hopkins School of Education

### *Please Note:*

The ESL program is in no way trying to replace the child's first language. We want the students to be truly bilingual/multilingual and be proficient in multiple languages! Practice reading and speaking in both languages at home. Encourage conversation in both languages. We recognize and embrace the cultural and linguistic diversity of each and every student!