

English Club
Pilot Project Course Syllabus
Periods 3 & 4

Instructor: Ms. Kate Rycroft

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Class: Mon & Thurs 11:40-1:30 (Barrio [REDACTED])
Fri 8:20-9:10 (2F Library)

Office: K3

Welcome:

You have been chosen for the [REDACTED] English Club pilot project because you have displayed a commitment to your education and a desire to reach out to your community. The desire to learn about and help the community in which you live is at the heart of what it means to be a global citizen. We could not be more proud of you.

Course Description:

This course-within-a-course is an opportunity for you to leave the traditional classroom structure and engage in an autonomous learning experience. This means that you will be responsible for guiding your own research and evaluating your own performance. The more you put into this class, the more you will get from it.

With your English skills and the knowledge you have gained from your life skills and project-based learning classes, you will become more engaged, self-directed learners who are able to transfer your learning to a new situation. Your goal is to learn through teaching. Together with your team, you will learn to evaluate your students and your teaching environment to create a positive English learning experience for the children in the club. Throughout the course, you will be guided through weekly reflections that will help you analyze your own development as a teacher and your experiences in the community.

Working with the students at [REDACTED] will give you a valuable introduction to a community that really needs your support and will benefit greatly from your senior project research next year. In this way, your students at [REDACTED] can help you with your education as much as you can help them with theirs.

Objectives:

- To engage with the students at [REDACTED] to determine their English learning needs and develop a plan to best meet these needs.
- To collaborate with peers in identifying and solving problems and challenges that arise throughout the project.
- To develop metacognitive learning skills through self-reflection and evaluation.
- To use the skills learned in the life skills and project based learning classes to engage in an autonomous learning experience.

- To build a relationship with members of the community with whom you will be working next year for your senior project.
- To gain an understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

Organization:

You will continue to be enrolled in your regular classes, but the structure and schedule will change. You will go to [REDACTED] on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:40 to 1:30 during your English language arts, life skills, and project-based learning classes. You will also use your Friday ELA class (8:20-9:10) to work on your plans for the following week. Your coursework will involve: working together as a team to organize, design and deliver English language classes for the students at Santa Maria [REDACTED]; researching effective teaching techniques and engaging activities for the students; writing independent weekly reflections about your experiences at the school and with the students; and, completing a final project that summarizes your experiences at the school and your evaluation of your own performance.

Text & Supplies:

As new teachers, it is your job to evaluate your class and determine the level and activities appropriate for teaching. You are encouraged to do extensive online research using ESL teaching websites. You may also check out story books from the CAS library and use supplies from the high school supply cupboards (at the discretion of the teachers). You will also need a notebook to take to Barrio [REDACTED], a cell phone or other video recording device and access to a computer with video editing software such as iMovie or Microsoft Movie Maker.

Evaluation:

- Attendance
- Group contracts
- Peer evaluations
- Research portfolios & plans
- Reflections
- Final Video Project

Rules of Conduct:

In order to remain a part of this pilot project, it is essential that you act responsibly both as a student and as a teacher. This means you must attend and participate in all teaching and planning classes and behave responsibly while at [REDACTED]. Regular peer evaluations as well as observations by CAS chaperones and [REDACTED] teachers will determine whether you are responsible enough to remain a part of the project. It is also important that you remain a role model for the students at [REDACTED]. This means that you must behave like a teacher from the time you arrive at the school until you leave. Any misconduct such as inappropriate language, conversations or behavior may terminate your participation in the project.