

Dear Parents,

Colegio Americano del Sur is committed to creating opportunities for students to understand and express their global citizenship and become leaders in their community. Junior students who have passed the ELASH exam are invited to join us in starting an English club pilot project with the students at **Santa María La Estación**.

The goal of starting the English club is twofold. Firstly, it provides a valuable learning opportunity for all of the students involved. The students at **La Estación** have never had the opportunity to study English and have expressed, with great passion, their desire to learn. It also provides an opportunity for our students to think about English acquisition from a reverse perspective. Rather than remaining the recipients of instruction, our juniors will take on the role of instructors, requiring them to not only review the basics of English, but to develop their metacognitive learning skills as they experiment with different teaching approaches.

Secondly, CAS is always looking for ways to differentiate teaching and learning for students with diverse skills and abilities. The students chosen for this project have displayed a commitment to their learning that has advanced them to a level above their peers. In order to continue advancing in their classes, it is important that they move beyond classroom learning and engage with their peers in an autonomous real-world learning experience. This is the comprehensive objective of their life skills and project based learning classes. Beginning this guided, independent work will also help prepare the students for their senior projects next year, which requires them to engage with the community and design their own research plan.

The students involved in this project will continue to be enrolled in their regular classes, but the structure and schedule will change. They will go to **La Estación** on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:40 to 1:30 during their English language arts classes. They will also use their Friday English language arts period for research, planning and reflecting through ELA assignments designed to culminate in a final documentary project.

Our students have expressed great interest in reaching out to their community and sharing the skills they have acquired at CAS with those who do not have access to the same opportunities. We could not be more proud of their commitment to their community, their own education and to becoming global citizens.

Sincerely,

Katherine Rycroft
Curriculum Director