



Alternative Curriculum Choices for Incoming Foreign-Born Students

(Emphasis on Language, Technology, and the Aesthetics)

Proposal by Dr. P. Joyce 4/25/11



The Traumas of Foreign-Born Students

- Target Student Population - foreign born
- Backgrounds filled with TRAUMA (war, homelessness, etc.)
- Negative mindset: HOPELESSNESS
- Cultural differences
- Limited letter recognition
- Reluctance to contribute to classroom/social verbal interaction
- Academic failure
- Fear to admit lack of understanding
- Subject to peer ridicule based on language/academic performance
- Social Issues: Lack of friends
- Questionable (criminal) peer acquaintances
- Parent loss of control

Advocate for a Silenced Population

- Gain new student histories through informal meetings (verbal/illustrations/written in their own language, etc.)
- Create opportunities for new students to meet their peers
- Provide assistance in expanding new student learning networks to enhance achievement possibilities
- Educate the parents about the American schooling system and their expected part in the process

Alternative Curriculum Choices for Incoming Foreign-Born Students

ESL Course

**This course is for those
students who do not speak
American English as their first
language.**

Film and Literature Course

This course designed to encourage students to use film/ movies as a visual avenue for comprehension. Students are introduced to various reading texts by viewing with a critical eye and applying such reading comprehension strategies as inferences, predictions, elements of text structure, and recall, to name a few. In addition, students analyze various points in the adaptation of a written format to that of film/movie.

High School Club
AFTER SCHOOL

membership in a club builds a connection to the school community.

Ex. ***English Conversation Club!***

Students will be expected to organize parent advisory forums on topics dealing with *How to Navigate the System*. Parent forums will inform parents about the bureaucratic workings of the American school system and keep them abreast of current issues that concern their children.

A meeting place outside of school will be arranged for weekly conversational English for students and parents!
(possible site - town public library)

Arts/Music Courses

Students experience works of art, architecture, music, and drama, and invite imagination and prior knowledge into the mix. They interact with language through discussions about their artwork, role playing, and short plays.

Options: *Drawing and Composition*

Web Design

Mixed Chorus

Modern Dance

Sculpture

Technology Course

Technology is an underlying component in numerous aspects of society.

In many cases, it has become the link to the working world in the 21st Century. Individuals with a basic knowledge of technology are currently able to navigate the world to accomplish simple tasks such as locating a store, finding out a bus route, or even shopping online.

Mastering the use of a computer keyboard (word processing, power point, and the Internet), a computer camera and recording devices on computers, just to name a few, have become a part of the necessities of life in the 21st Century. Students use low to high performance technology and passive to engaging technology throughout their high school years and beyond in order to open the pathways of success to all students, technology must be addressed.

Software Programs available in Computer Lab for basic keyboarding instruction

French/Creole Course

The beginning course starts with conversational French and continues with an emphasis on listening and speaking. Basic grammatical constructions and vocabulary from themes of everyday living allow students to express themselves on subjects of common interest.

Latin/Etymology Course

This course is an introduction to Latin and Etymology, as well as a reinforcement of English grammar. The mix of Latin and Etymology addresses basic grammar and writing skills. Etymology explores how Greek and Latin roots form the foundation of much academic English vocabulary. Students prepare for standardized tests as well as meet the high school foreign language requirement in this class with the Latin component.

Spanish/Etymology Course

This course starts with conversational Spanish and continues with an emphasis on listening and speaking. Basic grammatical constructions and vocabulary from themes of everyday living allow students to express themselves on subjects of common interest. Etymology explores how Greek and Latin roots form the foundation of much academic English vocabulary.

English Tutoring Lab

The Lab is designed as an academic support environment for incoming foreign-born students. It is a support system in place in addition to the ESL class. One-on-one and small group tutoring sessions allow students to develop the tools they need to further their progress. Instruction is based on individual student needs and based on differentiated learning techniques. The scaffolding method is also incorporated which involves using effective stepping-stones of information, which include adjustments in level of difficulty and depth of understanding on an individual basis.

The Lab provides differentiated learning opportunities as well as an inviting space for focused student concentration. All reading texts specific to English classes and/or writing assignments are addressed in each session.

**Option:
Wilson Reading Program**
This course provides remediation and improvement of reading skills through multi-sensory instruction primarily using the Wilson Reading Program.

Prerequisite: Child Study Team recommendation

**General MATH
Course**

**PHYSICAL
EDUCATION
Course**

Please advocate for foreign-born students and consider alternative academic pathways!