

Jeff Wexler, Upper School ESL Coordinator

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The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Montverde Academy has been helping international students achieve English fluency for over a decade. We understand the challenges that come with trying to master a foreign language while preparing for college

and beyond. Our program is designed to help students gain confidence and mastery in their English language use through a vertical curriculum that incorporates a balanced literacy approach.

During registration students whose primary language is not English will take our English proficiency exam called the SLATE (Secondary Level Assessment Test of English).

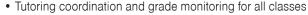
Based on their score, they will be placed in ESL 1 (beginner), ESL 2 (intermediate),

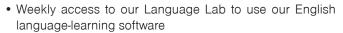
ESL 3 (advanced) or test into mainstream classes. If the student tests into our program our primary goal is to improve their English fluency as quickly as possible. Over the years, we have seen impressive results!

\*\*On average, over 60 percent of our students test out of their respective ESL

level in one semester, and virtually 100 percent test out within one school year. We have seen students test into ESL 1 as ninth graders and take honors and AP-level classes by their junior and senior years!

Students in our ESL program receive the following accommodations and services:





- Extended time on tests and guizzes
- Growth evaluations five times throughout the year
- Performance consultations with the ESL Coordinator

## ESL Level 1 - SLATE Score 0.0-1.9 (CEFR: Pre-A1)

Students who test into beginner-level ESL will take three English courses: Literature I, Composition I, and Communications I in a block format. These students typically read at a fourth-grade level and can have a basic conversation in English. In addition to the accommodations and services previously listed, students with very limited English ability will be allowed to use a translator before being phased-out at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

## ESL Level 2 - SLATE Score 2.0-2.9 (CEFR: A1)

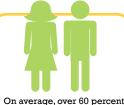
Students who test into intermediate-level ESL will take three English courses: Literature II, Composition II, and Communications II in a block format. These students typically read at a fifth to sixth grade level and are comfortable having extended conversations in English and listening to native speakers at a more natural pace.

## ESL Level 3 - SLATE Score 3.0-3.9 (CEFR: A2)

Students who test into advanced-level ESL will take two English courses: Literature III and Composition III in a block format. In addition to these courses, students have more flexibility in their schedule to take mainstream classes in other subjects. Students who test into advanced-level ESL typically read at a sixth to seventh grade reading level and spend their time in these courses honing their critical reading and writing skills.



Percentage of MVA students who test out within one school year in our ESL program.



On average, over 60 percent of our students test out of their respective ESL level in one semester.



Students in our ESL program receive weekly access to our langauge lab, extended time on tests and quizzes, growth evaluations and more.