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1 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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2 - INTRODUCTION

Our community welcomes you to the Plainview - Old Bethpage Central School District. Our district is rich in linguistic diversity as we now have 25 languages represented in our POB family. This handbook is designed for families new to our school district where English is not their primary language. In this handbook, you will find information that will be helpful to you and your school aged children.

Here is a list of abbreviations commonly used throughout this handbook:

ACT	American College Testing
AP	Advanced Placement
BTS	Back To School Night
CCLS	Common Core Learning Standards
ELA	English Language Arts Exam
ELLs	English Language Learners
ENL	English as a New Language
ESL	English as a Second Language
HLQ	Home Language Questionnaire
HS	Plainview-Old Bethpage John. F. Kennedy High School
MMS	Mattlin Middle School
NYS	New York State
NYSESLAT	New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test
NYSITELL	New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners
PARP	Parents As Reading Partners
PAS	Pasadena Elementary School
PKWY	Parkway Elementary School
POB	Plainview – Old Bethpage
POBMS	Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School
PTC	Parent Teacher Conferences
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SR	Stratford Road Elementary School

Why are families considered ENL (formerly known as ESL)?

Many families speak more than one language. In some cases 2 and 3 languages are represented in the home. English is the newest language introduced into the home by one or more family member.

Who are ELLs?

ELLs are students who are English Language Learners.

3 - TRANSLATOR SERVICES

POB provides ENL families with translation services. These services include, but are not limited to representation:

1. During Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC) are held to discuss your child's academic progress. **Please inform the school ahead of time if you would like a translator attending these conferences with you.**
2. During meetings with all school personnel. **Please inform the school ahead of time if you would like a translator attending these meetings with you.**
3. Documents and notices from the school sent home throughout the year, may be translated into your home language, upon request.

It is important to notify the school of your translation needs at the beginning of the school year. Translation requests require time to schedule.

4 – WHO ARE ELLs?

Identifying ELLs:

1. Every new student entering the district fills out an HLQ (Home Language Questionnaire) form. This form indicates if there is a language other than language spoken in the home.
2. If a language, other than English, is indicated on the HLQ form, an informal interview, with an ENL teacher, is conducted, one on one with the student.
3. If it is determined, after the informal interview is given, that further testing is needed, the student will be given the NYSITELL. The NYSITELL score determines the level of English proficiency and whether or not a student will need English language services. **For more information in your native language, please visit:**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/parent-information/NYSITELLParentInformation.html>

IMPORTANT – once a student is identified as an ELL, they remain in the program until they pass the NYSESLAT. This is a state mandated service and as such is not optional.

For more information about your child’s rights and services, please visit:

<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/ellparenthotline>

ENL Program:

After a student is identified as needing ENL, they are placed in a program that is dependent on their English proficiency level. Delivery of instruction is provided in 2 ways – Stand Alone ENL and Integrated ENL. Stand Alone ENL is provided by the ENL teacher in a small group setting outside of the mainstream classroom. Integrated ENL is provided by both the classroom teacher and the ENL teacher with in the mainstream classroom setting.

The levels and the delivery of instruction are as follows:

1. Entering (beginning) – 360 minutes per week of English instruction required
 - 180 minutes per week of Stand Alone ENL
 - 180 minutes per week of Integrated ENL
2. Emerging (low intermediate) – 360 minutes per week of English instruction required
 - 180 minutes per week of Stand Alone ENL
 - 180 minutes per week of Integrated ENL
3. Transitioning (intermediate) – 180 minutes per week of English instruction required
 - 90 minutes per week of Stand Alone ENL
 - 90 minutes per week of Integrated ENL
4. Expanding (advanced) – 180 minutes per week of English instruction required
 - 180 minutes per week of Integrated ENL
5. Commanding (proficient) – 90 minutes per week of English Instruction required for 2 years
 - 90 minutes per week of Integrated ENL
 -

Exiting ENL

The requirements for exiting the ENL program are testing at the commanding (proficient) level in all areas of the NYSESLAT and completing 2 years of service at the commanding level. **However, once a student achieves commanding level proficiency, they no longer take the NYSESLAT.**

About The NYSESLAT

In the spring of every year, the ENL students take the NYSESLAT. The NYSESLAT tests the student's English proficiency level in 4 areas: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The test results determine the student's proficiency level and ENL requirements for the following school year. The results are usually reported in August.

Please note – commanding students are exempt from the NYSESLAT. For more information in your native language, please visit:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/parent-information/NYSESLAT.htm>

5 – DESCRIPTION OF ENL PROFICIENCY LEVELS

These are the levels of language acquisition. These are basic descriptions of what an ELL is capable of at each level. **It is important to note that these levels overlap and vary according to individual students.**

The Pre-production Stage (Entering / Emerging): This is considered to be the “Silent Period”. Students at this level might have as many as 500 words in their receptive vocabulary. They might understand these words, but do not necessarily have the confidence to use many of them. Some of these students may attempt to repeat words they hear.

The Early Production Stage (Emerging / Transitional): This is a period when students are acquiring many more words in their receptive vocabulary. Students at this level might know as many as 1000 words. They can use short phrases and sometimes complete sentences, even though the words might not always be used correctly.

Speech Emergence (Transitional / Expanding): Students have about a 3000 word vocabulary at this stage and will use simple sentences. They will be able to ask simple WH questions such as “Who is the main character?” They will initiate short conversations with peers. They will understand read aloud stories supported with pictures. They will be able to do content work, with guidance and support.

Intermediate Fluency (Expanding / Commanding): Students know and use approximately 6000 words. They are beginning to use more complex sentences, both in speaking and writing. These students will draw upon strategies from their native languages to help them learn English. They can make inferences, express their opinions, and usually be able to justify these with evidence. They will ask questions to clarify content or to be sure of directions. Most of these students should be able to work on grade level materials as long as there is some teacher support. Writing at this stage can still be problematic due to spelling errors, word usage, and sentence structure issues.

Advanced Fluency (Commanding): Most ELLs have “tested out” or exited the ENL program at this stage. Students who have recently exited their ENL programs might still need support in content areas and in writing. Please note, progress is individual and make take some longer than others.

6 – CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Robert Dennis	ENL Chairperson Assistant Principal POBMS	516-434-3308
Helene Levine	Secretary to Mr. Dennis	516-434-3139
Old Bethpage	Main Office Number Rich D’Esposito – ENL Teacher	516-434-3419
Parkway	Main Office Number Joan Moore – ENL Teacher	516-434-3358
Pasadena	Main Office Number Nicole Hacker – ENL Teacher Joan Moore – ENL Teacher	516-434-3451
Stratford Road	Main Office Number Susan Laviola – ENL Teacher Saira Urena – ENL Teacher Rich D’Esposito – ENL Teacher	516-434-3389
POBMS	Main Office Number Alyssa Carroll – ENL Teacher Joan Moore – ENL Teacher	516-434-3308
Mattlin MS	Main Office Number Saira Urena – ENL Teacher	516-434-3250
POBJFKHS	Main Office Number Ellen Feldman – ENL Teacher	516-434-3125

Some possible reasons why you would need these phone numbers to answer your questions:

1. To request translators
2. To report if your child is sick and/or going to be absent
3. To speak with or make appointments with your child’s teachers
4. To speak with the school nurse
5. To speak with the Principal
6. To request information
7. To report a problem or concern

7. Curriculum

The Plainview -Old Bethpage School District follows the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

The New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) are internationally-benchmarked and evidence-based standards. These standards serve as a consistent set of expectations for what students should learn and be able to do, so that we can ensure that every student across New York State is on track for college and career readiness. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) will continue to develop educator resources to support the successful implementation of the CCLS in classrooms across New York State over the next several years.

- **For more information on the New York State CCLS please visit:**

<https://www.engageny.org/ccss-library>

- **Common Core State Standards, Parent Guide**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/parent-information/ParentGuidetoCommonCoreStateStandards.html>

- **For Common Core content area vocabulary support, please visit:**

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/bilingual_glossaries.htm

These glossaries provide **native language vocabulary** to support content area studies.

How can I help my child at home?

- Read to your child in his or her home/primary language and/or English (research shows that reading to your child in your home language will help support English literacy skills).
- Tell stories to your child in your home/primary language.
- Visit your local library and borrow audio books in your home/primary language or English.
- Be sure to attend parent-teacher conferences scheduled by your school.
- Schedule an individual meeting with your child's teacher to learn about specific ways that you can help your child succeed.
- Schedule time every day for your child to do homework and, if possible, provide a quiet place, free from distractions, where he or she can work.
- Plan family outings to museums. Guides at the museum can help you navigate an exhibit with your child.
- Museums and libraries often offer low cost and/or free enrichment classes after school or on weekends.

8. TESTING AND ELL ACCOMMODATIONS

New York State and district assessments are given throughout the year. During these months, the following assessments are given. Please check the calendar for specific dates as it varies from year to year.

January

- Regents (NYS) - various subjects – Grades 9-12
- Midterms (District) – various subjects – Grades 7-12

April

- ELA Exam (NYS)– Grades 3-8
- Math Exam (NYS)– Grades 3-8
- NYSESLAT Speaking (NYS) – All ENL students (except for commanding)

May

- Science Performance (NYS) – Grades 4 and 8
- AP Exams – Advanced Placement (NYS) – various subjects – Grades 9-12
- NYSESLAT – Listening / Reading / Writing – (NYS) - All ENL students (except for commanding)

June

- Science Written (NYS) – Grades 4 and 8
- Finals (District) – various Subjects - Grades 7-12
- Regents (NYS) – various subjects - Grades 9-12

Accommodations for ELLs

ELLs receive additional support during tests because they are learning English. This helps reduce anxiety and pressure.

- Separate location – small group, quiet place
- Unlimited time
- Approved bilingual glossaries (except for Foreign Language exams)
- Test in student’s native language or translator provided (except for ELA)
- Answers can be written in student’s native language (except for ELA)

9. IMPORTANT DATES ON THE CALENDAR

Many important events occur throughout the year. Some are district wide and some are school specific. Please check the calendar regularly so you will have this information about your child's school.

Reminder – these are the abbreviations for each school:

1. SR – Stratford Road Elementary School
2. PKWY – Parkway Elementary School
3. PAS – Pasadena Elementary School
4. MMS – Mattlin Middle School
5. POBMS – Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School
6. HS – Plainview-Old Bethpage John. F. Kennedy High School

September

- Incoming Grade 5 orientation – MMS / POBMS
- Incoming Grade 9 orientation - HS
- BTS – All Schools
- ACT (away) - HS

October

- Picture Day – All schools
- ENL Parent Tea (Back To School Night for ENL)
- Graduation caps and gowns to be ordered – HS
- PSAT - HS
- ACT (away) – HS
- SAT – HS

November

- Marking period ends – All Grades
- Report cards posted – Grades 5-12
- Holiday Boutique – check date for your school
- SAT (away) - HS

December

- PTC – Grades K-8
- Report cards posted – Grades K-4

- Holiday Boutique – check date for your school
- All State Music
- Book Fair – check date for your school
- Winter Concerts Grades K – 8
- Choir Concert – HS
- Jazz Concert - HS
- Orchestra Concert - HS
- Progress reports posted – Grades 5-12
- ACT (away) – HS
- SAT (away) – HS

January

- Incoming Grade 9 parent meeting - HS
- Incoming Grade 8 parent transition meeting – MMS / POBMS
- All County Music – Grades 5-12
- PARP – PAS
- Winter Sports begin
- HS 101 – POBMS / MMS
- Regents exams - HS
- Midterms – POBMS / MMS
- SAT (away) - HS

February

- Marking period ends – Grades 5-12
- PARP – SR

March

- HS 101 – MMS / POBMS
- PARP – OB
- Spring Sports begin – Grades 5-12
- Incoming Grade 6 parent meeting – POBMS / MMS
- Marking period ends – Grades K-4
- Incoming K parent meetings
- Founder’s Day
- DECA State Competition
- NYSSMA Piano Festival
- NYSSMA Levels 1-6 Competition
- Progress reports posted – Grades 5-12
- Report cards posted – Grades K-4

- PTC – Grades K-4
- Book Fairs – Grades K-4
- SAT (away) - HS

April

- ELA exam – Grades 3-8
- Math exam – Grades 3-8
- Marking period ends – Grades 5-12
- Report cards posted – Grades 5-12
- NYSESLAT Speaking begins – ALL ENL Students
- Pre - Prom meeting – HS
- DECA – HS
- NYS Science and Engineering Fair – POBMS
- ACT (away) - HS

May

- Plant Sales – Grades K – 4
- Book Fair - MMS
- NYSESLAT – Listening / Reading / Writing – ALL ENL Students
- Field Day – Grades K – 4
- NYSSMA All State Solo Festival
- NYSSMA Major Ensemble
- School Budget vote
- Science Performance Test – Grades 4 and 8
- AP Exams – HS
- Spring Concerts – Grades K – 8
- Band Concert – HS
- A Cappella Concert - HS
- Progress reports posted – Grades 5-12
- Musical Play – MMS
- Drama Play – HS
- SAT - HS

June

- Regents – HS
- Science Written – Grades 4 and 8
- Jazz Concert – HS
- Orchestra Tea – HS
- Choir Concert - HS

- HS 101 – MMS / POBMS
- Science Fair – MMS
- Celebration of Learning - MMS
- Moving up ceremonies – Grade 4 and Grade 8 – All Schools
- Graduation - HS
- Final Exams – Grades 5-12
- Regents Exams – HS
- SAT Exams - HS
- ACT Exams - HS
- Senior Prom – HS
- Report cards posted – Grades K - 12

10. TECHNOLOGY AT HOME

The POB School District subscribes to a number of educational databases and websites that you can access at home as well.

To view the complete list by school, please visit:

<http://c2.pobschools.schoolwires.net/Page/377>

To get access to these websites, please see your school's librarian.

Apps

There are many educational and enjoyable apps, both free and paid, that your child can use at home. Here are a few suggestions by grade level and subject matter.

Elementary

- Amazing Coin – Math
- Arithmetick – Math
- Bill Nye The Science Guy – Science
- Brain Pop – All Subjects
- Brain Feed – Social Studies
- Division Flashcards – Math
- DIY Human Body – Science
- Endless Numbers – Math
- Epic – ELA
- Fizzy's Lunch Lab Fresh Pick by PBS Kids – Math
- IXL – ELA and Math
- LearnZillion – ELA and Math
- Mad Libs – ELA and Arts
- National Parks Services – Philadelphia – All Subjects
- Near Pod – ELA and Math
- Sim City Buildit - Social Studies and Science
- Starfall – ELA and Math
- Turbo Math Games - Math

Middle School

- Brain Pop – All Subjects
- Brain Feed – Social Studies
- ABC News – Social Studies
- Algebra Touch – Math
- Classify It – Science
- CBS News – Social Studies
- Endless Numbers - Math
- Epic - ELA
- Fizzy’s Lunch Lab Fresh Pick by PBS Kids – Math
- Geoboard – Math
- IXL – ELA and Math
- LearnZillion – ELA and Math
- National Parks Services – Philadelphia – All Subjects
- Near Pod – ELA and Math
- Sim City Buildit - Social Studies and Science
-

High School

- Brain Pop – All Subjects
- Brain Feed – Social Studies
- ABC News – Social Studies
- Algebra Touch – Math
- CBS News – Social Studies
- Fizzy’s Lunch Lab Fresh Pick by PBS Kids – Math
- goREACT – Science
- Gravity Launch – Science
- IXL – ELA and Math
- LearnZillion – ELA and Math
- Sim City Buildit - Social Studies and Science
- World History Test Prep

11. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There are many free resources in our schools and our community to help students, both academically and socially, while helping families make Plainview their home.

Extra-Curricular Activities

After school activities help students adjust to their environment, build self-esteem, and learn English. Arts, sports and music do not require English proficiency for participation and introduce children to new interests.

Some school activities are:

Elementary

- Chess club
- Band
- Orchestra
- Mileage Club
- 4th R Program
- Bake Club

Middle and High School

- Swimming
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Music
- Orchestra
- ACapella choir
- NYSSMA
- Jazz Ensemble
- Art Club
- Literary Magazine
- Creative Patterns
- Theatre
- Science Club
- Photography
- Foreign Language Clubs

For more information on these activities or to get a full list of activities, please contact your child's school.

Some community activities available for a fee are:

- Sports, such as, basketball, football, lacrosse, cheerleading, and many others can be found on the PAL website:

<http://www.plainviewpal.com/site>

- Basketball Club

<http://plainviewbasketball.com/Little.html>

- Soccer Club and Travel Team

<http://www.pobsc.com/site/>

- Middle Island JCC – classes, activities and events for both adults and children of all ages

<http://www.miyjcc.org/>

PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an important part of the school. The PTA sponsors many events, such as Book Fairs, Heritage Day, PARP as well as family picnics, and parties for special occasions. Volunteering for the PTA is a wonderful way of enriching children's school experience and meeting other parents. The PTA will send information home with you child at the beginning of the school year.

For more information about membership in your child's school, please visit:

<http://www.pob.k12.ny.us/domain/26>

Plainview – Old Bethpage Public Library

A place that families can visit for a variety of activities and resources is the Plainview – Old Bethpage Public Library. It offers a wide range of services, such as:

- Online homework help with professional tutors
- Books on every reading level
- Kindles and Nooks to check out with pre-loaded books
- Foreign films for kids and adults
- Learn a language programs
- College and career help
- Classes and activities for every member of the family such as Baby and Me, chess, arts and crafts, play dates, movies and musical performances

Parents and their children will benefit greatly from becoming a part of the POB Library family. Library cards open the door to the Plainview community and to academic success.

For more information and a complete list of all services, please visit the library at 999 Old Country Road or go to:

<http://www.poblib.org/>