

ES English Department Meeting Notes
October 9, 2024

Phonics Curriculum for Early Elementary (EC-4 Grades)

- An English teacher gave a presentation on the Science of Reading (SoR), which many Early Elementary teachers are currently using through various books and resources (e.g., Fountas and Pinnell, UFLI Foundations, Moffatt, Heggerty, Reading Rev, etc.). A lesson plan was demonstrated for all attendees.
- The English teachers passed a motion to adopt a uniform Science of Reading (SoR)-aligned curriculum for lower grades (EC-4).
- Next steps: The English Department will invest time and effort in identifying an appropriate literacy curriculum for early grades.

1st/2nd Grade Partner Tongue (PT) Pilot Language Program: Monitoring Progress

- English Partner Tongue teachers are collaborating to identify what has worked well and what hasn't in their classrooms since the PT Pilot Program began.
- Additional internal department meetings are scheduled for November to discuss the PT 1st-2nd Grade and 3rd Grade Survey Results and other data. The goal is to prepare a proposal for the ED to establish PT in LE permanently.

Reading Lab Update

- The Reading Lab staff conducted dyslexia screenings for all incoming 1st graders and have established a guideline curriculum (UFLI Foundations and Sonday Systems).

Cursive Writing

- Cursive writing is now mandatory in grades 3-6. This requirement is non-negotiable as it is mandated by Berlin School Law, listed in the Rahmenplan, and included on report cards.
- EMT students will begin learning cursive writing in 3rd grade and are expected to use American cursive handwriting, even in classes taught by German teachers.

Next Meeting: TBD