



ESL Newcomer Academy




"Math is my hardest class because it is hard to understand the English. I have to practice a lot. Abdul helps me in math." – Ali




"I draw well. I will draw anything, but I really like drawing faces. Human faces, animal faces, it doesn't matter. With a pencil, I can do anything." - Dayani

JCBE Presentation – July 25, 2017

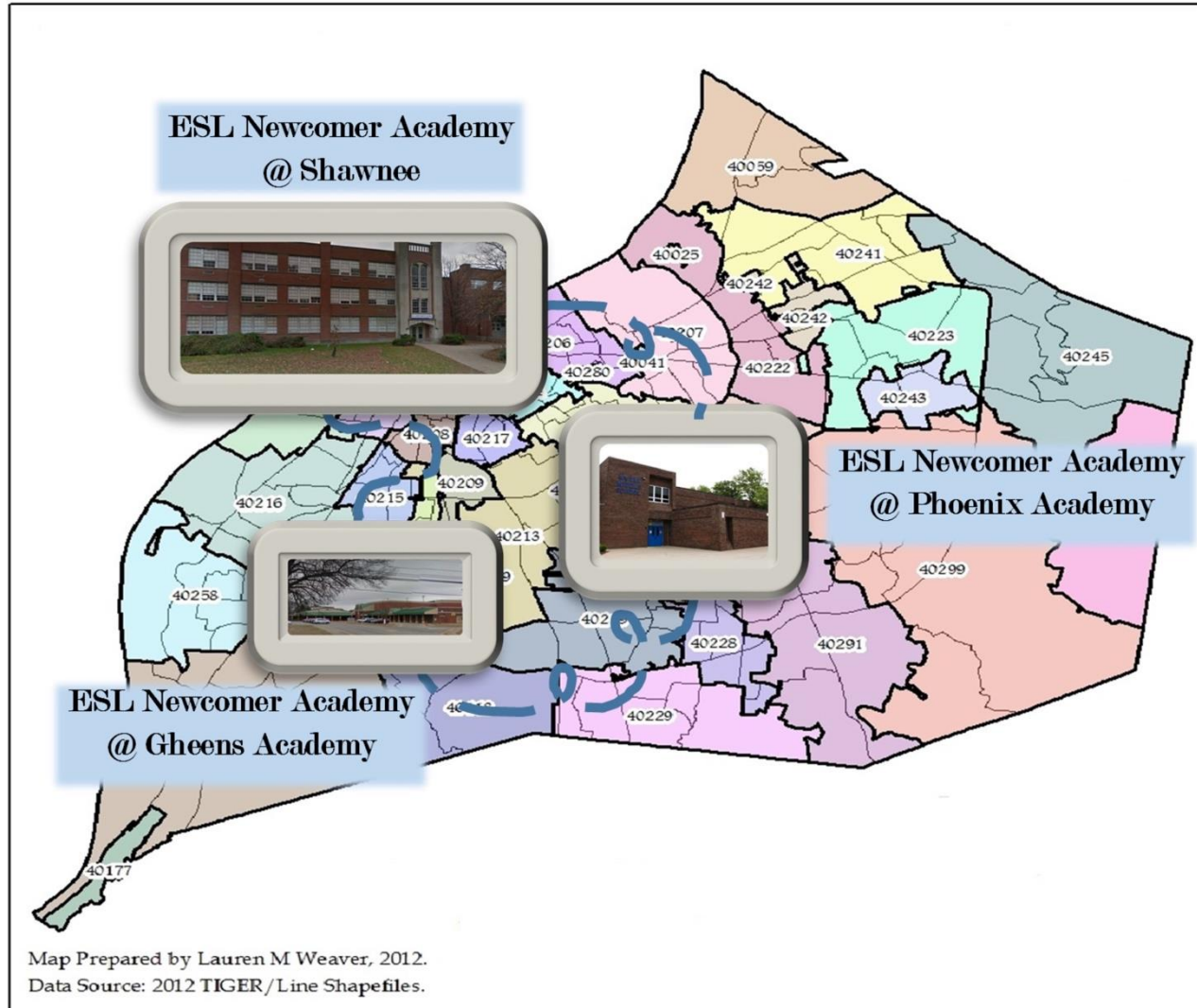


"Basketball is my best talent. Also, I like to be funny. Sometimes I make people laugh. I like when people smile because of me. I always want to be the best, like I'm greedy. I'm also famous for my size!" - Ben



"I like science and math because they are not difficult for me. They have good teachers. I feel bad in the morning when I wake up and it's a school day, but when I get on the bus, I feel good." - Karan

ESL Newcomer Academy – Where did we start?



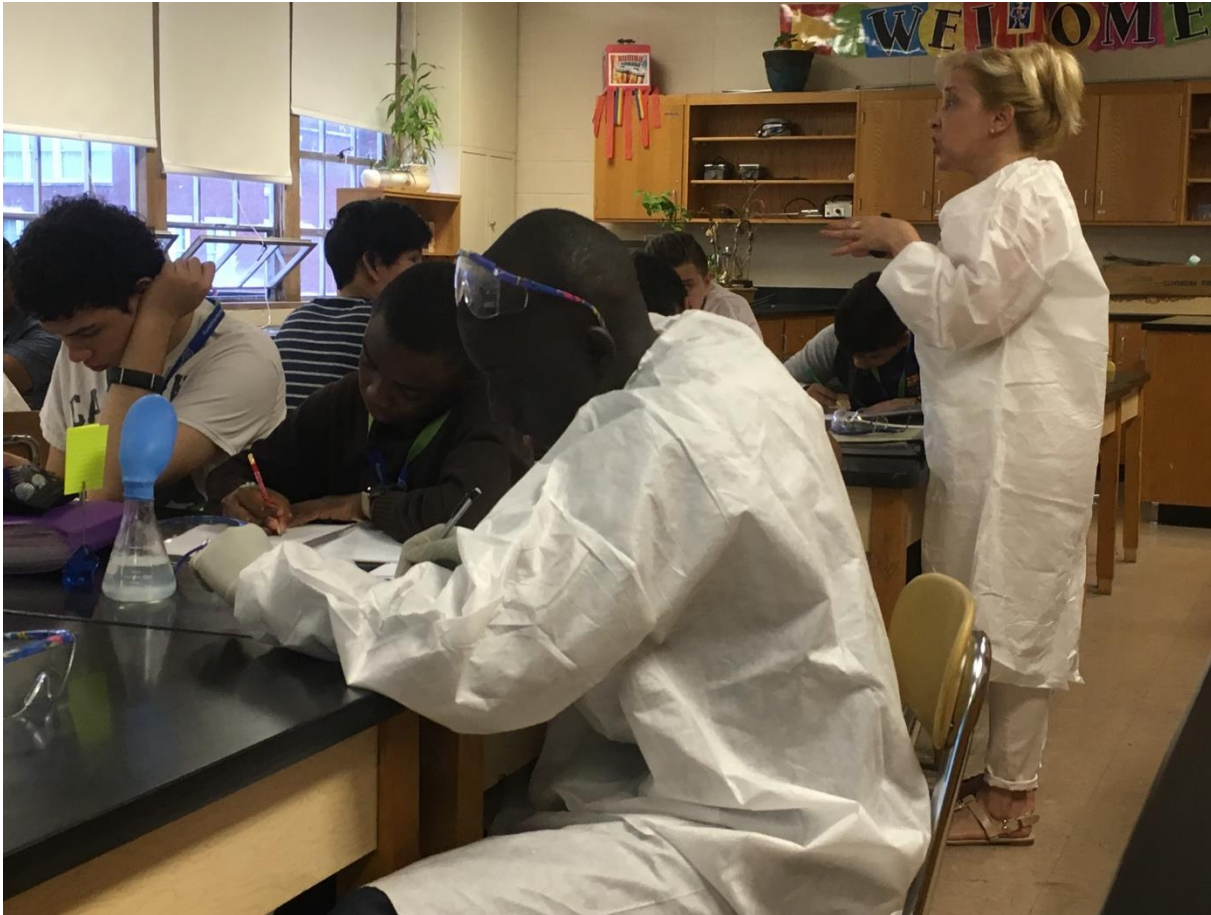
- Began in 2007 at Shawnee High School
- Maximized district resources in one facility
 - Provided specially-trained ESL/Content teachers to ensure all-day instruction geared to needs of newcomers
- Staff could collaborate easily
- Simplified interactions with parents and community stakeholders in one location

ESL Newcomer Academy – What do we do?



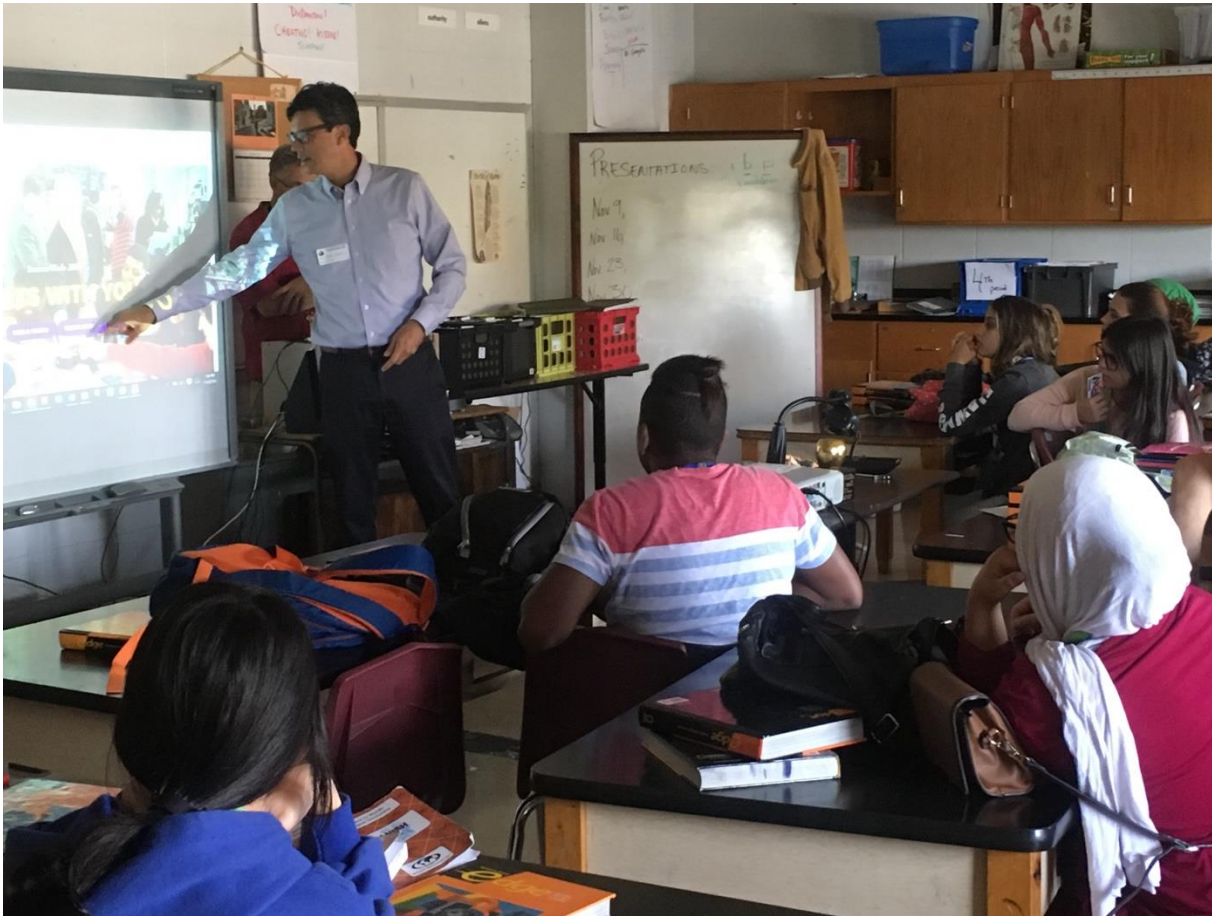
- Teach English to beginners, grades 6 to 10
- Help students acclimate to a new school and culture
- Teach grade-level content in an accessible manner
- Provide extra literacy and numeracy support for students with limited education background
- Help families to support the needs of our students
- Social/emotional supports for students (trauma and needs due to movement, previous experiences, family adjustments)
- Help offset newcomer influx in district – students transition at end of year, starting school with everyone else the following year
- Help students transition to regular schools and prepare for college/career
- Talent Academy pathway – computer literacy

ESL Newcomer Academy - How do we do it?



- Teachers are certified in their content area, and have an ESL endorsement
- Research-based strategies and resources for teaching English in content classrooms.
- Diverse staff (over 50% of teaching staff are international background)
- Bilingual Associate Instructors (Spanish, Swahili, Arabic, Somali, Kinyarwanda/Kirundi/French)
- Mental Health Counselor
- Home-School coordinator
- CART, Talent Academy Pathway course,
- Goal Clarity Coach
- Positive climate to welcome students to a new environment – facilitates more efficient learning and helps students catch up.
- Life Skills and Advocacy

ESL Newcomer Academy - How do we do it?



- Community support (Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Catholic Charities, YMCA Newcomer Program, La Casita, City of Louisville, volunteers, local universities, local organizations)
- JCPS Health Services & Louisville Board of Health provide routine immunization and physical clinics on-site
- JCPS ESL academic support services help with instructional coaching
- Routine communication with parents and family literacy events throughout the year.
 - Transportation provided
 - Interpreter services

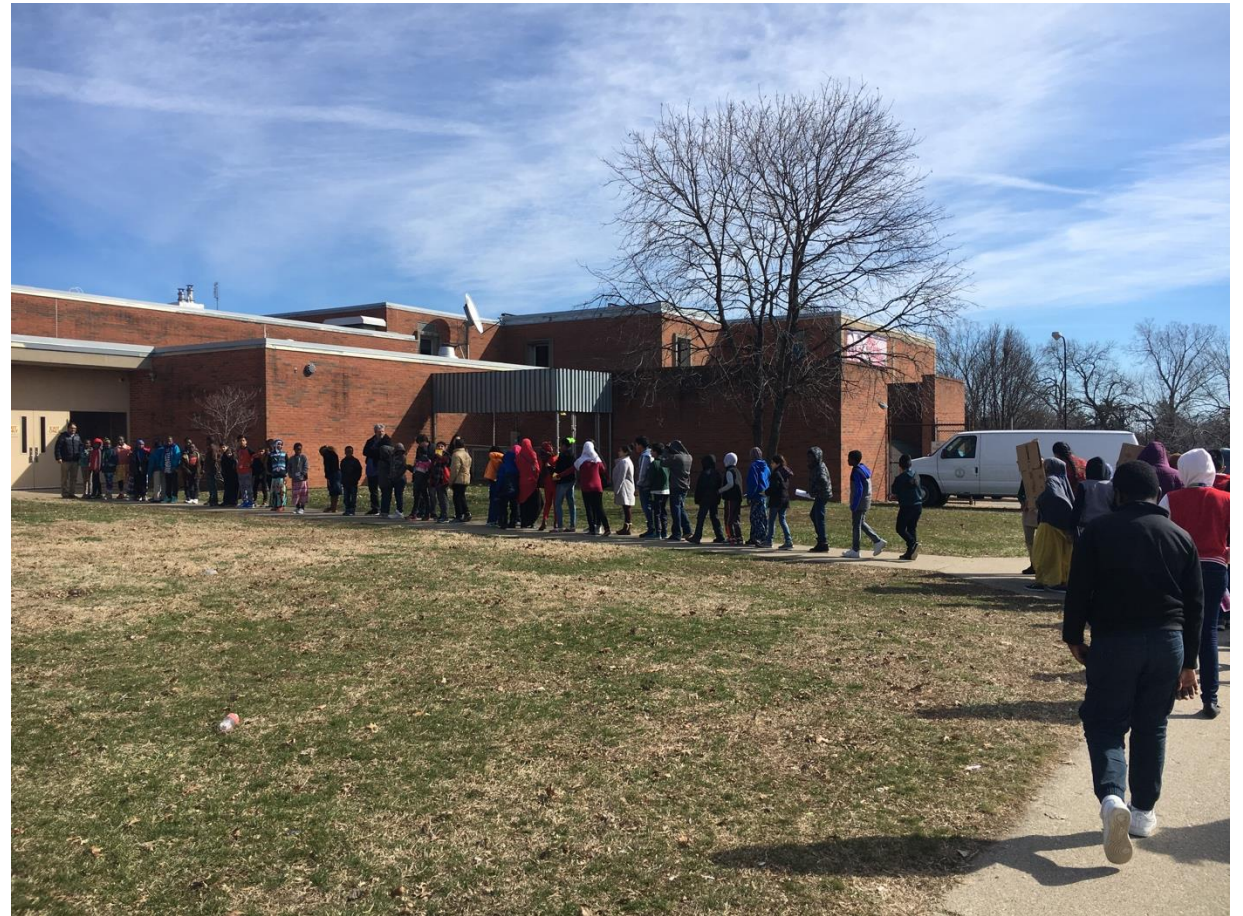
ESL Newcomer Academy – How we changed

- On August 12, 2016, the 3rd day of school, we had 434 newcomer students.
- Over the course of the year, we enrolled an additional 474 students in our school.
- To accommodate growth, we hired an additional 12 teachers and 3 BAI (Bilingual Associate Instructors) during the middle of the school year, increasing our staff by 33%.
- In January, we added additional classrooms at Phoenix. One month later, we added even more classrooms at Gheens.
- We ended the year with 908 students.



ESL Newcomer Academy – Plans for this year

- Start year with same enrollment as last year (over 400)
- Building assignments re-organized to facilitate grade-level teams. (6th grade and middle school SIFE at Gheens, 7th and 8th grade at Phoenix, and high school at Shawnee.)
- Support staff relocated in order to address the needs of our entire school spread-out among three buildings. (Our Secretary and Order/Receiving clerk will be at Shawnee, attendance and records at Gheens, and a clerk at Phoenix)
- Two counselors, one Assistant Principal, and one principal to support all three buildings.
- No social worker nor Youth Service Center.



ESL Newcomer Academy – additional resources

At our Phoenix location this year, we will have extra-curricular programming for our 7th and 8th grade students.

Available field and gym space at the Phoenix location provides the YMCA with space to support character development and physical activity.



We have a library collection at our Shawnee space. With the assistance of the librarian at Shawnee, we are able to provide library opportunities for our high school students.

Middle school students will have field trips to the public library throughout the year.

ESL Newcomer Academy – Who are our students (end of year, 2016-17)?

End of year – 908 students

Top 5 languages:

490 Spanish

91 Arabic

66 Somali

63 Swahili

41 Kinyarwanda

41 Nepali

Buildings:

257 Phoenix

522 Shawnee

130 Gheens

SIFE (significant interruption of formal education – approx 20%)

Limited English Proficient - 100%

Homeless – approx 50%

F/R lunch – approx 90%



ESL Newcomer Academy – How we transition



Students transition at end of year to help acclimate smoothly. With more resources, we are eager to follow-up with our transitioned students better and to be able to gather data about the successes and needs of our former students.

Newcomer Academy students transition to comprehensive schools:

10 Middle Schools with ESL Programs

10 High Schools with ESL Programs

- ELA courses with an ESL endorsed teacher
- Intentional scheduling
- ESL Middle School and High School Resource Teachers support ESL teachers and BAIs in the 20 secondary ESL program schools, as well as offer school-based professional learning opportunities for all staff

We provide interventions for students and assess needs to help identify students needing IEPs or 504 plans so that they can transition more smoothly.

Students with a significant interruption in formal education (more than 2 years) may choose to stay an extra year for more support