

# September 2020

## Back-to-School by Mirna Jope

### Teacher- English Language Development

Hello everyone! I'm Mirna Jope.

I teach ELD at Rio Americano High School. ELD is English Language Development. As you can see, I'm at home. Because it's not yet safe for us to teach from our actual school, I, and your child's other teachers, are teaching from home right now. Back-to-School is a time for us to explain to you how our classroom works, what the classroom policies are, what is expected of the students, what our students do in our classes. It's also an opportunity for us to explain how we assess the work. In order to explain what students do in ELD, I need to show you a few sites online.

Let me begin with my San Juan Unified website. It's easy to remember the URL:

<http://sanjuan.edu> is the district website, my website is <https://www.sanjuan.edu/mjope> and my email is [mjope@sanjuan.edu](mailto:mjope@sanjuan.edu). The school's website is <https://www.sanjuan.edu/rioamericano>. On the website I have links that can be accessed so that students can join class on time. I have the weekly schedule and the Google classroom site linked here. Also on the site, I have listed what I teach each period. Wednesdays are a little bit different. Students have been told to always check the Classwork tab on Google Classroom and to check "View All" to see which assignments are due or missing.

I have translated documents available there to explain my classroom expectations and policies. One of the things that I really stress with the students is their personal responsibility. I expect them to be respectful with themselves and each other. I expect them to be responsible and participate fully, to be prepared. Any assigned work is their homework; I do not give them anything extra to do as "homework."

If the work is incomplete or I have pointed out mistakes and they have not changed it, I consider it incomplete and I will not accept it. I will not give it a grade; it is a zero. It is their responsibility to make sure that it is complete before they turn in in.

If they are failing something, they have to do it over again. It's much more work to do a poor job than to do a good job the first time. Their work needs to be original, has to be what they created. Don't have someone else translate or write it out for them. How else are they going to learn, if somebody else is doing their work or they are copying someone else's work?

If they are using something they did not create, they have to say where they got the information.

Every single day, they need to read and write. Even if they have finished all of my work, they need to continue reading and writing because that is the only way that they are going to improve their proficiency in English.

This technology part is only relevant in our physical classroom.

I like to show you how I grade. I use a rubric. A student must try to do their personal best. The black grades, 2-4, are good grades; 1 and 0 are bad grades. They might start failing the class with too many of those poor grades.

# September 2020

## Back-to-School by Mirna Jope

### Teacher- English Language Development

It's very important for the students to come to their Zoom sessions on time. They need to be ready to enter the Zoom BEFORE class starts. When they enter the class 5, 10, 15, 45! minutes late, they have missed a lot of instruction. As you know, it's not easy to learn English on your own.

This phone number is for the school and is not working anymore. You need to rely on my email and I will do my best to get back to you within 2 days.

My grading scale does not match a traditional scale. Because I use 4-point rubrics, my grading scale matches up with GPA (grade point average). I do not assign "D" grades for academics, only citizenship. There aren't any citizenship grades this year with distance learning so the only grades that will be assigned are A, B, C and F; the last grade "F" is a failing grade and the students does not earn any units.

How do they get to their work? Through Google Classroom. Let me show you more from my site and the other links I have their like the Student Portal (assignments, grades, attendance, etc.). Other resources link to district and school sites, as well as our online textbook. There are video tutorials to help with technology tasks.

There is information about Rio's and the district's English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC and DELAC). ELAC meetings are at Rio (via Zoom) and the agenda is linked on my site. The DELAC meetings are also on Zoom; the district page has translations of their meeting information. They provide interpreters for their meetings. The last item on my website are also some wonderful photos and videos of our Global Expos that were held in the past. Sadly, we will not be having GEAR (Global Expo @ Rio) this year due to COVID19 restrictions on public gatherings.

Coming to Google Classroom, this is how the students access their work. On their portal (<https://portal.sanjuan.edu>). Q, I've shown you, Zoom you are familiar with, Google Drive is where students can store their work. Google Classroom shows the classes that your student is in. Using English 3 Transition, I will show you how it looks. The section is called the "Stream"; it shows announcements. What I was telling students, they need to be checking "Classwork" and "View All." They should also check grades.

In Zoom Recordings, they can find videos of past class instruction. Levels A, B, C, Fundamentals are the textbooks that we are using. The students need to click on "View Assignment" so they see all the instructions very clearly and the work that they need to do. The rubric tells you how it is graded; from 4 points down to zero; it is based on personal responsibility. Are you proud of the work or did you just rush to get it done? Even though they say, "I did my work! I turned it in!", well, if you didn't really make a great effort....a 2 is a passing grade but it is not an "A."

Back to Google Classroom, Mr. Ali! Mr. Ali is a jewel! He is a bilingual instructional assistant. He helps make calls, he tutors the students, he has his own Google Classroom to help

# **September 2020**

## **Back-to-School by Mirna Jope**

### **Teacher- English Language Development**

students with their courses. They need to come prepared to his classroom; they need to try to do the work first before they visit his classroom for help after lunch.

Now I will show you just how much information I give them to help them get started. Most of these assignments include little videos to help them see the steps and understand what they need to do. Every students, in ELD 1 and 2, has a personal dictionary where they can translate words and it stays in a spreadsheet for them.

When we work in the textbook, the students get their own copy of the assignment. Here it is in a presentation. When they click on "Present" mode, it's large on screen for them. There are also speaker icons to show recordings of the instructions. The next slide is the actual lesson. When it is just the picture or icon, it is a link to the activity. (demonstration of different activities). When the picture has writing on it, it means that they need to use that material (notebook or personal dictionary, for example). There are other links in the assignments with additional material to help teamwork on the assignment. They have an account to study the vocabulary in Quizlet. Sometimes they need to create their own copies (more activities shown). Finally, they have this page to type their own answers in. Every time they are asked to "Make a Copy," they need to share this with me.

These are instructions that are in the Zoom sessions. As you see here, they are given instructions step-by-step but they need to work on this on their own. Whatever I ask them to do, they need to open up the work and try first on their own. After I've shown them what to do in class, they need to go and work on it. Please do not let them tell you , "I don't know what to do" because I have shown and they do have the resources in class. As you can see, they have a lot of movies and other things showing them how to do the work (19:31-20:16movie plays showing class lessons and instructions).

So I look forward to this being a very productive year for all of us. It's a new kind of a year because we've never taught like this so I appreciate your support as I work together with your children to help them improve their English proficiency. Thank you very much for watching this video and have a great 2020-2021 school year together with your child. Thank you very much. Bye.