

The Word From Third

Tuesday, September 3 to
Friday, September 6

Academic Language

As part of our word work and vocabulary development, students have learned the difference between Informal Language and Academic Language.

You can think of Informal Language as the way we talk and text everyday. When speaking and writing informally, we often use non-specific words, start with “and” or “but”, use slang, and ramble a bit. Academic Language is the language of school and work, the language of most writing, and the language of tests. It is the language of scholars! With Academic Language, we use a more sophisticated vocabulary, transition words, and less slang to speak and write in a way that is considered appropriate in all school and work settings.

In order to develop stronger academic language, the students must first build their overall language skills. To that end, the students have had explicit instruction in how to communicate with others. I explained and modeled each item below. Then students had several opportunities to try each of the steps with partners.

Setting Up Productive Partnering for Verbal Engagement

- Make eye contact with an elbow partner.
- Determine who will be partner A and B.

4 Ls Productive Partners

Use the 4 Ls:

- L = Look at your partner's eyes.
- L = Lean toward your partner.
- L = Lower your voice.
- L = Listen attentively.

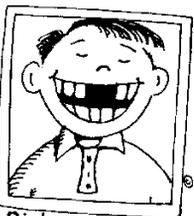
Academic Interactions Use a Private Voice

- Move your hands away from your face.
- Make eye contact.
- Speak 2x slower.
- Speak loud enough to be heard over other classmates.
- Pause appropriately.
- Emphasize key words.

Reporting Uses a Public Voice

- Speak 3x louder and 2x slower than your private voice.
- Move your hands away from your face.
- Pause appropriately.
- Emphasize key words.

Future lessons will emphasize sentence frames that help students to discuss and collaborate effectively, as well as learning and using vocabulary words that enrich our academic language.



Picture Day!

We'll take pictures on Monday, September 9 at 9:20 A.M. If you're planning on purchasing photos, please order online or send the order envelope with your child on Monday (if you haven't already returned it).

**I'M SORRY THERE IS NO PHOTO PAGE THIS
WEEK. PLEASE LOOK FOR YOUR KIDS IN
ACTION IN NEXT FRIDAY'S NEWSLETTER.**