



# Flexible and Adaptable ELL Curriculum at Great Hearts Arizona

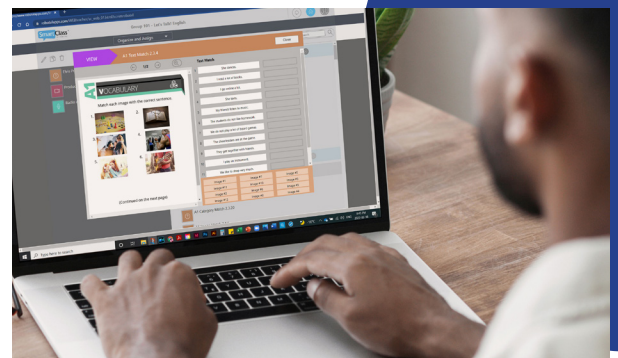
***Supporting incoming Newcomer English Learners and finding a flexible, adaptable, and student-centered solution.***

For many ESL teachers, it is hard to have students of different backgrounds, levels, native languages, and cultures mixed together within one class. The SmartClass English curriculum offers teachers the flexibility to address each student's needs while also allowing teachers to create activities around the academic language of other subject areas.

***Complete ELL curriculum for beginners through advanced levels***

One of the solutions Great Hearts looked at was the SmartClass English curriculum for English Language Learners.

SmartClass' "Let's Talk! English" is a comprehensive English curriculum for beginners through advanced learners, housed within the SmartClass Teaching Platform. Over 3000 digital activities are available for teachers to use as their main curriculum, or to supplement existing textbooks/curricula. Half of the activities are automatically graded, the other half focus on speaking activities to encourage fluency amongst learners. The SmartClass platform also allows teachers to create their own activities.



## | **Supplementing with academic language activities**

While Great Hearts Schools was excited to have a full curriculum with adaptable activities, it was almost more important for EFL teachers to be able to incorporate the academic language of other subject areas besides English. Gabriela Flatt, English Language Specialist at Great Hearts Arizona, therefore prepared a unique “Master Curriculum” for all involved schools, teachers, and students. Supported by Melissa Arndt, Educational Consultant and Trainer for SmartClass, Gabriela was able to select the activities she wanted from the English curriculum, organize them in folders within the platform, and create hundreds of supplemental activities around the language of Math, Science, Social Studies, and History to not only support students in their English-language-learning-journey but all throughout their Middle and High School careers.



### **Streamlined learning**

Creating a master curriculum of preexisting activities and those for subject areas outside of English as a Foreign Language, allowed Great Hearts to ensure a streamlined ELL approach throughout the district. All EFL teachers got access to the same curriculum, all while also being trained in further supplementing and using the SmartClass activities and platform.



### | **SmartClass at Great Hearts:**

The partnership with SmartClass began by enrolling 20 students and training the teachers on the platform. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with educators appreciating the ability to adapt lessons on the fly as new students join the community. The flexibility of SmartClass has been particularly beneficial in addressing the diverse needs of students, many of whom arrive with different backgrounds and language skills.

Although their current project is relatively small, the school remains optimistic about the potential for growth. As the student population changes, they are prepared to expand their use of SmartClass to accommodate additional ELLs and ensure that every refugee feels supported.