

Pragmatics Classes 2019 - 2020 Outline

1) September 2019 Topic: Identify and Values

- a) Welcome back to new school year at Pathways Academy! As our students get older, their interests, strengths and values change. In September, pragmatics classes will focus on identify and personal values. Students will learn to identify their likes, dislikes and interests.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Culture, Identify and Self-Concept
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Personal Values, Likes and Dislikes
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Belmont Center (Scavenger Hunt)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Strengths and Weaknesses
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Personality Quizzes & Autobiographies
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Arboretum
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Loyalty, Confidence, Courage
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Responsibility, Respect, Compassion
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Bank Tour
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Movie (*Toy Story* or *Remember the Titans*)
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Movie (*Toy Story* or *Remember the Titans*)
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Freedom Trail

2) October 2019 Topic: Nonverbal Language & Social Communication

- a) Social communication is an important aspect of social skills. During this month, students will learn various social communication skills such as how to appropriately enter and exit a conversation, how to choose an appropriate topic, and how to stay on topic. This month will also focus on nonverbal language - skills like proxemics, body language, gestures, tone of voice, and active listening.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Initiating a Conversation & Choosing a Topic
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Reciprocal Conversation & Ending a Conversation
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Market (Pie Ingredients)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Blurting/Filters
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Active Listening
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Apple Picking
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Facial Cues, Body Language/Gestures
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Proxemics
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Michael’s Craft Store
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Tone of Voice
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Appearance/Hygiene
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Pumpkin Decoration (Backyard)
 - xiii) Week 5, Lesson 1: Movie (*Wall-E* or *Mr. Bean*)
 - xiv) Week 5, Lesson 2: Movie (*Wall-E* or *Mr. Bean*)
 - xv) * Week 5 Pragmatic Outing – Puppet Making and Show

3) November 2019 Topic: Building and Maintaining Friendships

- a) Building and maintaining friendships is often an area of difficulty our students find themselves facing. This month will focus on how to use what they previously learned about their identify, likes, dislikes, values and interests to find appropriate friends to build a friendship with. This month will also focus on how to maintain a current friendship and why maintaining friendships is important.

- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Importance of Friendship
- ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Joining a Group or Initiating a Friendship
- iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Target
- iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Characteristics of a Good Friend & Choosing Friends
- v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Acquaintances to Friends
- vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Jay Gee
- vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Levels of Friendships
- viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Admiring and Complimenting Others
- ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Restaurant
- x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Movie (*The Sandlot* or *The Little Rascals*)
- xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Movie (*The Sandlot* or *The Little Rascals*)
- xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Ninja Course

4) December 2019 Topic: Social Conflicts and Problem Solving

- a) This month's topic will build off November's lesson. Recognizing a problem or a social conflict and being able to solve it is an important social pragmatic skill to have in order to maintain friendships. This month will focus on handling disagreements, conflict resolution and being respectful.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Solving Problems Before They Become Problems
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Handling Disagreements
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Library (Research Faneuil Hall)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Conflict Resolution
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Being Respectful
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Faneuil Hall
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Celebrations with Friends & Get Togethers
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Holidays Around the World
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Dunkin'
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Winter Break (Movie)
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Winter Break (Movie)
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Ice Skating

5) January 2020 Topic: Bullying vs. Teasing

- a) Students will focus on teasing, bullying and peer conflicts. They will learn to identify bullying in all its forms. Students will learn to make the distinction between bullying, accidental issues between peers, teasing and conflicts. With this understanding about bullying, lessons will shift toward things students can do to prevent bullying and how to handle it if they experience bullying.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Bullying 1
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Bullying 2
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Belmont Center (2 stops)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Bullying Variations
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Cyber Bullying
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Museum of Fine Arts
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Teasing and Targets
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Am I a Bully?
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Bully Guest Speaker
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Cultivating Kindness

- xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Cultivating Kindness
- xii) * [Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum](#)

6) February 2020 Topic: Exploring Figurative Language and Language Concepts

- a) With an understanding of friendships and other relationships, Pragmatics Classes will move toward exploring nuanced skills that are important to advancing relationships and social communication. First of these topics include the topic for February 2020: *Figurative Language and Language Concepts*. Lessons on this topic will introduce our students to the myriad of ways in language may be used and understood beyond the literal. The following forms of figurative language will be described for our students: metaphors, similes, hyperbole, language with multiple meanings, sarcasm, and idioms.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Figurative Language – Metaphors and Similes
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Hyperboles and Personification
 - iii) * [Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Dunkin’](#)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Multiple Meanings
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Irony and Idioms
 - vi) * [Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Museum of Science](#)
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Indirect Language/Social Lies
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Making Guesses (Inferencing)
 - ix) * [Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Library \(MOS research\)](#)
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Getting from Details to Main Ideas or Concepts
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Words are Not as Simple As They Appear: Behavioral Concepts
 - xii) * [Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Burlington Mall](#)

7) March 2020 Topic: Appropriate Use of Humor

- a) Building on last month’s topic of figurative language, March 2020 Pragmatics Lessons will address *Appropriate Use of Humor*. Students will learn about laughter and the brain before delving into a study on the various types of humor. Distinctions will be made on use humor appropriately, such as the importance of knowing the right time for joking as well as looking at the responses of others when telling a joke.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction – Appropriate Use of Humor
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Pranks-Funny or Mean, Humor-stop or keep going
 - iii) * [Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Library \(History of St. Patrick’s Day\)](#)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Environment – Know Your Venue
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: What to Avoid – Know Your Audience
 - vi) * [Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Irish Restaurant](#)
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Executive Functioning: Managing Time
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Executive Functioning: Organizing Thoughts and Materials
 - ix) * [Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Target](#)
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Get Ready, Do, Done.
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Problem Solving, Self-Reflection
 - xii) * [Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Escape Room](#)

8) April 2020 Topic: Emotions & Identifying Coping Skills

- a) Pragmatics classes will focus on the important topic of understanding emotions. The understanding of emotions is a critical aspect to social development that will facilitate engagement with others. Therefore, to enhance our students’ emotional awareness and

comprehension, the following topics will be addressed: emotional identification (discussing different positive and negative emotions), the connections between thoughts, feelings, and behavior, and perspective taking with emotions.

- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Emotions in Self and Other
- ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: What are Emotions/Vocabulary
- iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Michael’s for Card Crafts
- iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Positive Emotions
- v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Negative Emotions
- vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Senior Home Card delivery
- vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Anger/Frustration
- viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Emotions and the Body
- ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Shaw’s for Bake Sale Items
- x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Communicating Feelings
- xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Recognizing Feelings in Others
- xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Bake Sale

9) May 2020 Topic: Relationships (West Wing) / Self-Care Skills (East Wing)

- a) West Wing: As our students get older, curiosity and interest in relationships arise. This month will focus on developing self-care skills such as developing various coping tools and emotional wellbeing. This will transition into an introduction to relationships.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Coping Skills and Self-care
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: What are Coping Skills and Why Learn Them?
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Trader Joe’s for Picnic Snacks
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Review Joining a Group
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Meeting a New Person
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Walden Pond Picnic
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Getting to Know a New Person – The Spoken and the Unspoken
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Suggesting a Date—or Not.
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – CVS Pharmacist Chat
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: He/She Said Yes! What’s Next?
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Boundaries – Others’ and Ours
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Buffet
- b) East Wing: In the month of May, pragmatic lessons will address coping strategies and self-care. Over the course of the month, students will learn about and try a variety of different coping tools. After learning how to cope with strong emotions, students will be taught about self-care in general, which is important to fostering ongoing emotional wellbeing.
 - i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Coping Skills and Self-care
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: What are Coping Skills and Why Learn Them?
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Trader Joe’s for Picnic Snacks
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Review of Negative Emotions
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Deep Breathing, Progressive Muscle Relaxation
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Walden Pond Picnic
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Stretching/Yoga
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Mindfulness
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – CVS Pharmacist Chat
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Self-Care/Self-Respect
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Gratitude

xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Buffet

10) June 2020 Topic: Expected Behaviors

- a) Pragmatics classes will focus on expected behaviors in various contexts. Topics covered within the theme of *Expected Behaviors* include, being respectful, using social filters, being a polite guest, eating at restaurants politely, dressing as expected in different contexts, and following rules. In addition, lessons will address expectations with respect to goal-setting and future thinking.
- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Expected Behaviors
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Language Styles, Formal vs. Unformal
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Library (History of Concord/Lexington)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Behavior in Public
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Being a Guest, Restaurant and Buffet Etiquette
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Concord/Lexington
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Social Filters, The Social Fake
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Respect for Cultures and Religions
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Police Precinct Tour
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Showing Respect Through Our Presentation/Dress
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Negotiation Boundaries and Closeness
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Castle Island

11) July 2020 Topic: Flexibility, Growth Mindset, and Perspective Taking

- a) Pragmatics classes will address flexibility, growth mindset, and perspective taking. Topics addressed these two months will focus on enhancing cognitive flexibility and perspective taking. Moving beyond this, students will learn about growth mindsets, distinguishing between flexible and rigid thinking. These skills will be applied socially to address the potential for thinking flexibly when engaged with others.
- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Introduction to Growth Mindset
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Flexibility vs. Rigid Thinking
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Star Market (Pie Ingredients)
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Getting Stuck
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Go with the Flow!
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Berry Picking
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Embracing Change – Fear vs. Excitement
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Growth Mindset – See the Possible.
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Library (History of Red Sox)
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Turning Failure Into Success
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: There Are No Accidents
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Fenway Tour
 - xiii) Week 5, Lesson 1: How Can Goals Promote Expected Behaviors?
 - xiv) Week 5, Lesson 2: Why is Leisure Time Important?
 - xv) * Week 5 Pragmatic Outing- Community College? Or Starbucks

12) August 2020 Topic: Education, Training, Employment - Getting Involved in the Community

- a) West Wing: During this month, the focus will be on developing an understanding of communication skills required for employment. The specific topics covered include career and vocational assessment; college, technical institutes and apprenticeships; finding employment; and

keeping a job. Students will also learn why getting involved in the community is important and how it benefits not only themselves, but those in their community.

- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Career and Vocational Assessment
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: College, Technical Institutes and Apprenticeships
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Firehouse Visit
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Finding Employment
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Keeping a Job
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Cradle to Crayons
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Importance of Volunteering
 - viii) Week 3, Lesson 2: Research Volunteer Opportunities
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Dr. Chat
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Community Volunteer Work
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Community Volunteer Work
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Harvard Square
- b) East Wing: In the month of August, students will learn about working together in a group towards a common goal. This month will focus on team-building exercises and why working as a group is an important life-skill to learn. Students will also learn about why it is important to get involved in the community and how they can get involved.
- i) Week 1, Lesson 1: Working as a Team
 - ii) Week 1, Lesson 2: Team Building Exercise
 - iii) * Week 1 Pragmatic Outing – Firehouse Visit
 - iv) Week 2, Lesson 1: Review Conflict Resolution
 - v) Week 2, Lesson 2: Team Building Exercise
 - vi) * Week 2 Pragmatic Outing – Cradle to Crayons
 - vii) Week 3, Lesson 1: Importance of Volunteering
 - viii) Week 3, lesson 2: Research Volunteer Opportunities
 - ix) * Week 3 Pragmatic Outing – Dr. Chat
 - x) Week 4, Lesson 1: Community Volunteer Work
 - xi) Week 4, Lesson 2: Community Volunteer Work
 - xii) * Week 4 Pragmatic Outing – Harvard Square

* pragmatic outings will be announced at the beginning of each month in the parent newsletter