**Hundreds of Fargo Public School students from 60 countries trying to learn the English language**

By [**Jordan Schroeer**](http://www.wday.com/users/jordan-schroeer) on Feb 21, 2016 at 11:07 p.m.

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Fargo, ND (WDAY/WDAZ TV) - As immigrants and New Americans add to the culture of our community, their children are changing our schools.



For hundreds of students in the Fargo Public School system, English class doesn't stop at the bell.

WDAY went to an English Language Learner or ELL classroom to see how students are learning the same curriculum, in their second or even third language.

First period algebra, the students mumble the answers like any other class, except you might hear a foreign accent with these ELL students.

Walking through the halls of Fargo Public Schools are roughly 800 students representing 60 different countries.

"It was very hard and I didn't really have much people who spoke my language. I speak Somali and Swahili, and it was very difficult cause nobody actually spoke Somali and it was just like two Swahili people that spoke it, and I didn't understand anything the teacher said,” said Sowda Shube, a Somalian Freshman.

Some of these students come from refugee camps and never spoke English until arriving.

"It's not easy to be honest. It was very hard for me. Like sometimes, you are going to feel embarrassing yourself because you can't communicate with anybody,” said Angeline Granue, Liberian Freshmen.

That embarrassment is going away thanks to ELL programs and their 33 staff.

"They're just amazing people that are hard workers in our school. The kids are almost all very interested in education and value education in a way that maybe some of our local kids don't, because they've gone without and they see it as their future,” said ELL Director, Vonnie Sanders.

The students say some people in our community are disrespectful, giving dirty looks when they walk by.

"Some people do it, but it really doesn't impact me, because even though they give me those facial expressions, I have those people who support me and say, you know what, don't worry about it, it doesn't matter. It's just a facial expression; they can't do anything about it,” said Shube.

However, in this classroom and many others, calculators are replacing cell phones and students are putting pencil to paper.

"They're amazing people, intelligent, fun, survivors,” said Sanders.

A classroom filled with future lawyers and engineers who are solving their multilingual equation to success.

The Grand Forks Public School system has roughly 370 ELL students, representing 31 countries.