

Spanish Syllabus 2017-18

W.T. Eich Middle School

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IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ



In Spanish students will be immersed in comprehensible language so that the brain has the opportunity to unconsciously acquire, or “pick up”, what it can when it is ready. Students will acquire frequently used words and structures of the language by interacting daily with a competent Spanish speaker (the teacher), and by reading often.

“Language is acoustical, not intellectual.” -Berty Segal

LISTENING: Perhaps the most important and rewarding aspect of using another language is being able to understand what the other person is saying to you. **In order for that to happen, one must hear lots and lots of *comprehensible and interesting* spoken language.** I ask that students do their part to make stories and discussion lively and interesting by actively participating. Being an *active listener* and consistently *working to understand* what you are hearing in class is the **best way to learn a second language.**

“Reading is the most powerful tool we have in language education.”-Steven Krashen

READING: We will read often in class from several sources. My goal is to provide students with a variety of comprehensible and interesting reading material. This will consist of *short stories, song lyrics, texts from stories we create in class, children’s books, novels, magazines, etc.* We will read individually, as a class, and in pairs. ***Reading Spanish books at home is strongly encouraged.*** Students may check out basic level books from class.

WRITING: There will be various other written assignments completed individually and in groups, such as *Quick Writes* to track improvement in writing fluency.

SPEAKING: Students will be encouraged in this course to speak Spanish when they feel comfortable and ready to do so. **Speaking English is strongly discouraged during class.** There are a few exceptions to this rule however: asking for clarification, translating something from Spanish, or answering a question asked in English. Offenses to this rule will not be tolerated. It is very disruptive to the flow of our class. Students are strongly encouraged to use the hand gestures that are taught in class to help communicate to the teacher when they do not understand something.

CULTURE: We will explore some cultural habits, traditions, and experiences of Spanish-speaking people in order to *better understand their worldview* and in turn *communicate more effectively.*

DISCIPLINE:

1. Student will be reminded of our class rules and redirected.
2. Student will move seats.
3. After two warnings, students will be issued a written Citation to serve detention.
4. Disciplinary Referral

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Listening Comprehension 22%
- Reading Comprehension 22%
- Speaking 23% (not graded until Trimester 2)
- Writing 23% (not graded until Trimester 2)
- Academic Behavior and College Readiness 10%
- Homework, participation, in class assignments, culture quizzes
- Generally, quizzes are given every 2-3 weeks and tests are given at the end of each trimester.

ABSENCES:

- Absent students need to check in with their class partner to copy any missed notes or handouts.
- Students will be required to make up any missed quizzes/tests the day that they return.
- Students with frequent absences are strongly encouraged to check out Spanish books from class to read so that they do not fall behind.

HOMEWORK: To be successful in Spanish, students should take ten minutes every night to review what they learned that day. This can include reviewing vocabulary, singing a song from Spanish class, or telling someone a story in Spanish from class. Many students do optional assignments at home for extra participation points like activities on my website, reading and writing in Spanish.

CHEATING:

Issues of academic integrity and honesty are dealt with in a serious manner. Students caught cheating will receive a phone call, a 0 on that assignment, quiz or test and possible referral.

Cheating includes:

- Copying or giving answers on any assignment, test, quiz, etc.
- Looking at other students' tests or quizzes during an exam
- Plagiarizing or copying work from someone else
- Unauthorized use of notes, book(s), cheat sheets
- Having a more advanced Spanish student or teacher/tutor edit your work
- Using any type of language translator, including web/online translators