

Middle School Spanish (6th-8th)

Miss Elizabeth Herman

Class meets weekly for the entire school year.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Students will begin to understand spoken language on a variety of topics.
 - a. Teacher will speak in Spanish everyday, with important details or directions given in both Spanish and English.
 - b. Listening activities will be conducted using videos, news reports, Skype interviews, and music. Assessment will come in both multiple choice and class discussion formats.
2. Students will begin to apply speaking skills to both informal and formal situations.
 - a. Class will include discussion of reading exercises, cultural topics, and conversation conducted in small groups, pairs, and with the entire class collectively.
 - b. Students will be expected to give oral presentations twice during the year.
 - c. Students will receive opportunities to interview native and bilingual speakers via Skype. They will be speaking in Spanish and English during the interview.
3. Students will learn strategies needed to read independently and interpret various genres of written material.
 - a. We will look at essays, poems, short stories, and newspaper articles both from the textbook and outside sources.
 - b. Students will need to conduct research for their presentations, using outside sources.
4. Students will learn and begin to use vocabulary, proper grammatical mechanics with their written assignments.
 - a. There will be weekly vocabulary lists that will be included in the testing material.
 - b. Each week there will be one or two grammar lessons that correlate with the vocabulary given that week.
 - c. Students will be expected to use their new vocabulary and the grammar learned in class for each of their assignments and also during discussions and activities.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the practices & perspectives of the cultures studied in class.
 - a. We will be “Skype-ing” approximately ten individuals ranging from natural citizens, missionaries, short term missionaries, study abroad students, tourists, and a Mexican-American student from Los Angeles, CA.
 - i. The interview will be conducted bilingually.
 - ii. We will discuss family life, religion, history, cultural traditions, schooling, government, current events, and pop culture.
 - iii. We will compare and contrast our lives here in the states with the testimony of life in Latin America and Spain.
 - b. Students will present in groups of two on a Spanish speaking country of their choice from a list of the countries we will be “Skype-ing.” They will be giving us a background of the country before we conduct our Skype interview.
 - c. We will be listening to music, watching tv shows, movies from varying Spanish speaking countries.
 - d. Students will memorize the geographical location of the Latin American countries on a map.
 - i. A blank map will be provided on assessments to be filled in by the students.

6. Students will write a short composition on the value of learning a second language and give examples of how they can use Spanish in their futures or how they would like to be able to use it in both the near future and post-graduation.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Students need to bring to class:

1. A three-ring binder. Notebooks are not to be used, as we will have many handouts and will need to take papers in and out of our binders on a daily basis.
2. Loose leaf college ruled paper.
3. AT MINIMUM, three different colored pens to help us take organized and coded notes.
4. Page Dividers. We will be organizing our notes into five sections to help with organization and to make it easier for the students to study for tests and quizzes.
 - a. Vocabulary
 - b. Grammar
 - c. Culture
 - d. Quizzes and Tests (study guides)
 - e. Projects (outlines, directions, notes, handouts)

BINDER

Each student will be required to keep an organized three-ring binder with page dividers (homemade or store-bought) and loose-leaf college ruled notebook paper for Spanish class. Many papers and worksheets will be given out, and they must be kept neatly and organized to ensure success in class. This notebook is a resource for homework and will be added to daily. Students will receive 5 points for an extra homework assignment if they bring their binder, with its dividers, and paper in by the end of WEEK ONE.

TECHNOLOGY

We will be using the Smartboard technology, Clicker technology, online research resources, Skype, email, and Edline in this course.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an extremely important part of any language course, because it reinforces what we talk about in class, and gives the student a chance to work independently before coming back to class with their questions. Homework will be assigned regularly and will be turned in at the beginning of class each day. Late work or forgotten daily homework will not be accepted after your "punch passes" have been used. In addition to the formally assigned homework, each student would be wise to look over the vocabulary, grammar lessons, and readings we have completed in class. It is good practice to talk about the topics or to rehearse the vocabulary with a family member or friend. Homework will be assigned a point value, if completed according to the instructions, legibly, and turned in on time; the students will receive the full points. If I call on the students in class to put a homework answer on the board or to answer aloud in class, and it cannot be done, the student will lose homework points for that day. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

PARTICIPATION

YOU MUST PARTICIPATE! Speaking and using any language is key to learning, mistakes will be made but that is how we learn! Everyone needs practice, not participating not only hurts you but also takes away from the other students' opportunity to learn and better understand Spanish as well. We will be speaking in pairs, in class, with me & with your peers. We will also be participating in small

“dramas” to practice situational vocabulary. Grading for participation is subjective, so make an impression! Students will receive a daily participation grade based on the following scale:

10PTs (100%): Always uses the Spanish we have learned. Takes risks to express ideas or thoughts. Uses minimal English. Converses with peers in Spanish. Follows classroom expectations.

9PTs (90%): Tries to use Spanish frequently. Takes a few risks in their speaking. Minimal English is spoken. Usually speaks Spanish with their peers. Usually follows classroom expectations.

8PTs (80%): Volunteers often to answer questions in Spanish. Uses Spanish at times to speak informally. Little English is spoken. Follows classroom expectations.

7PTs (70%): Makes a few attempts to speak Spanish. Uses English often. Answers some questions in class. Needs to try harder. Sometimes follows classroom expectations.

6PTs (60%): Meets minimal requirements for Spanish speaking. Takes no initiative to do more. Needs to improve. Rarely follows classroom expectations.

0-5PTs (0-50%): Inattentive, not on task, and/or distracts others. Writing notes, doing other homework, and/or sleeping. Does not follow classroom expectations.

GRADES

1. Grades will be calculated by dividing points earned by overall possible points. Along with the total points, students will be assigned a percentage grade according to my scale (as posted below). Students will earn points through:

- a. Participation
 - i. class discussions
 - ii. group projects
 - iii. “pair-shares”
- b. Tests/Quizzes—both oral and written assessments
 - i. Students are to expect one test per unit and at least one or two announced quizzes a week. All grading will be done on a point/percentage system. Students will be tested on all course objectives.
- c. Homework
 - i. Homework will be given every week. It will be collected or looked at during class as the teacher sees fit.
- d. Projects—both group and individual projects
 - i. Project on a Latin American country from our “Skype List.” This will be done in a group.
 - ii. Project on a prominent Spanish speaker either from Latin America or from the States. This will be an individual project.
 - iii. Smaller projects will align with unit activities and will be done in class and as homework. This includes small compositions, reflections, and short essays.

e. "Pair-shares" and group activities

i. In class work will include opportunities to work in pairs and in small groups.

3. I will make every effort to post grades on Edline before every Monday morning so students and their parents can keep track of points and to express any interest in additional help outside of class.

GRADING SCALE

A- 90-100% B- 80%-89% C- 70-79% D- 60- 69% F – below 60%

CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. I want to know what YOU know, not what your friend or your older sister knows. Cheating/Plagiarism includes copying homework, copying papers, copying a test or quiz, or passing answers during an assignment. If I find a student cheating, IMMEDIATE disciplinary action will be taken.

CUANDO ESTÁS AUSENTE... If a student misses class for any reason (music, sports, field trip, appointment, meetings, sick day, etc) it is their responsibility to get the day's notes from a classmate and to ask me for any handouts after class. If they miss a test or a quiz, they can make up these assessments with me after school or during the lunch break if they are unable to stay after school. The students will have 5 school days to make up a quiz or a test, after that the score will be a "0." Any homework that was due while the student was absent is STILL DUE, hand it in at the beginning of class. If there are extenuating circumstances, such as an extended EXCUSED absence, please see me after class to discuss make-up work.

CLASS EXPECTATION:

RESPECT:

1. Individual/personal concerns are to be handled outside of class time.
2. Appropriate language is to be used at all time, in every language. Refrain from negative comments about yourself or others. Unkind or insensitive commentary will not be acceptable.
3. Listen and follow directions the FIRST time they are given.
4. Respect the teacher, the other students, yourself, and the classroom. As a courtesy to others, please keep your binder organized and neat, and the classroom as well. Please raise your hand before answering/asking a question or leaving your seat. No touching, hitting, or annoying your class-neighbors, and do not take anything that belongs to another student.
5. NO CHEWING GUM. If I catch you chewing gum you will lose one of your daily participation points. You cannot chew gum and speak clearly in Spanish.
6. Refrain from doing other homework, reading outside books, styling your hair, texting/using your phone, or applying lotion during class.

RESPONSIBILITY

7. Enter class with a positive attitude about learning Spanish.
8. Be prepared: to hand in your homework, have your binder & your colored pens/pencil, & your assignment planner.

9. Know your homework assignment before you leave class. Student must be responsible to personally request any handouts or homework assignments for anticipated absences (such as appointments or fieldtrips). Hand in any homework missed during your absence.
10. This class upholds all expectations recorded in the Student Policy/Procedure Handbook.
11. Participate in class by using as much Spanish as you can!
12. Be prepared to work independently, in pairs, small groups, or in class assignments. You will need to be flexible, prepared for class, patient, and a good partner. I will be monitoring this work in class and your effective use of the time will be reflected in your grade.
13. COMPLETE YOUR OWN WORK.

PUNCTUALITY

14. Arrive to class on time. Be in your seat when the bell rings!!
15. Turn in homework at the beginning of class.
16. Make up tests & quizzes within the 5 day grace period.
17. Students are expected to be in their seats & working until the bell rings; we will not be lining up or packing up our notes until the bell rings.