

Course Syllabus Spanish 7-8

Sra. Day
2015-2016

¡Bienvenidos a la Clase de Español!



I would like to welcome you to the Spanish 7-8 class! My hope for you at the end of this year is for you to be able to communicate in the language and appreciate the many aspects of Hispanic culture! The following is information about the classroom activities and expectations for my class.

Course Description:

This course focuses on expanding the use of the language for comprehension and expression in more sophisticated contexts. Students delve deeper into the target language and culture as they continue to make comparisons and connections between English and American culture and Spanish and Hispanic cultures.

Grammar and vocabulary are presented through cultural situations that allow students to discuss a variety of topics. The main focus of first semester is to review previously learned concepts but to also add new materials to emphasize the use of language for real life purposes. Students read and discuss authentic literary texts such as short stories, fairy tales, poems and current events through the use of online newspapers. Students will continue to learn to express what they will do or would do in certain situations. Students will also be able to express themselves using “if” clauses, the past subjunctive and present/past perfect subjunctive tenses. Themes for this year include describing others more in depth, social/economic problems of countries, graduation, holidays and exploring the cultures of Spain and Latin America.

A variety of learning activities using formative and summative assessments are designed to help students meet district and National ACTFL standards of world language learning. Skills developed in the classroom may be used in the community and beyond.

WORLD LANGUAGE STANDARDS FOR THE DUBUQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

- #1 **COMMUNICATION**: Students will communicate in languages other than English.
- #2 **CULTURE**: Students will gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures.
- #3 **CONNECTIONS**: Students will make connections between target language learning and other disciplines.
- #4 **COMPARISONS**: Students will develop insight into the nature of language and culture.
- #5 **COMMUNITIES**: Students will use the target language beyond the classroom setting.

Assessments:

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways throughout the year. Formative (practice) assessments are informal and are not graded. They help the teacher plan instruction based on what the students already know and need to learn. Formative assessments include, but are not limited to, homework assignments, class participation, and in-class practice activities. Summative assessments tell whether or not students have learned the material required, and do go in the grade book. Summative assessments will include, but are not limited to, vocabulary and grammar quizzes, reading comprehension questions, speaking activities, compositions and projects. **All assessments will strive to be based on real-world situations and part of the ACTFL proficiency standards for speaking, writing, reading, listening and cultural competency.** Students will also be assessing their

own learning and progress of their language learning through the use of portfolios.

Content:

The content of this course is based on themes that are relevant and of interest to teenagers:

Unidad 1: Descriptions of Self and Others (grammar review)

Unidad 2: Social and Economic Problems (The subjunctive tense & culture of Hispanic countries)

Unidad 3: Holidays and Graduation ("If" clauses and the past subjunctive)

Unidad 4: Future Plans (Yearbook composition)

Unidad 5: The Culture of Spain and Hispanic Literature

Final Video

Instructional Strategies:

- The activities in this class will include formative (practice) and summative (graded) assessments as well as reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture activities. This year we will also be concentrating on practicing and improving on interpersonal, presentational writing and speaking skills/proficiencies as well as interpretive reading and listening skills.
- The use of technology, games, paired and group activities, computer instructional games, songs, authentic reading materials and videos will be part of the daily structure of the class.
- At the end each chapter, students will be assigned a project or summative quiz or test to assess whether or not they have learned the necessary skills/material and what they are able to produce with the language (through writing, speaking or cultural competency). Students will receive a rubric for these projects or concise expectations of what learning will be assessed for quizzes and tests. For group projects that require collaboration, students will be graded individually.
- Much of the class will be conducted in Spanish (50 - 80%) and students will be expected to speak the language as much as possible. One of the main goals in learning a foreign language is to be able to speak the language so an emphasis on communicative activities will be incorporated into classroom instruction.
- Although daily homework will be rarely assigned (1-2 times a week), students should spend time studying vocabulary and doing various online practice activities. Flashcards and activities will be sent to students through Remind101 and/or online.

Resources:

- ❖ Unit Packets
- ❖ Vocabulary and Grammar handouts
- ❖ ¡En Español! Level 3 textbook (loosely used a guide for themes for the year)
- ❖ Computer Resources
 - o classzone.com - Vocabulary, reading and listening activities
 - o quizlet.com - Vocabulary practice
 - o conjugemos.com - Grammar practice
 - o spanishdict.com - Vocabulary, grammar and listening practice

CLASSROOM MATERIALS NEEDED FOR SPANISH CLASS

- ❖ 1 inch 3 ring binder & 5 Tabs with Labels (we will label these later)
- ❖ Loose-leaf paper & notebook
- ❖ Highlighters of different colors
- ❖ Earbuds/headphones - Highly recommended - Used for listening activities & songs in class
- ❖ Optional: Kleenex & Dry Erase Marker (very much appreciated!)

Academic/Behavioral Expectations:

- **Homework:** Traditional daily homework will sometimes be assigned in Spanish Class. Students should expect to study daily, both the vocabulary and grammar points of each lesson. Resources are available on online and in handouts for studying purposes. At times, students will be required to finish class assignments at home or prepare for in-class assessments. These will be graded accordingly.
- **Absences:** If a student is absent (excused or a school activity), they are responsible for finding out what was missed and making up any assignments or quizzes. They are to check the absent binder located in the classroom, with a classmate, online, or with me.

Classroom Expectations

RESPECT

Respect: I have high expectations in the Spanish classroom, and expect ALL students to treat me and all classmates with respect.

- Be open-minded and LISTEN to others' ideas. Teasing or name-calling that could inhibit other students from learning will not be tolerated. Look out for one another and be good to each other. Keep hands, feet, and materials to yourself. Please keep your language appropriate.

INVOLVEMENT

INTEGRITY

Cell Phones: Cell phones need to be put away and off desks once the bell has rung. Texting and checking messages during class inhibits focus during class time activities and is disrespectful to the teacher and to other students. There will be times when students will be able to have their phones out and we will be using them in some class time activities. Students need to ask permission if there is a family situation that they would need their phones out during class. Also, if the student feels that an app may be helpful in their learning during an activity, they may ask permission to use their phone.

Tardies: Time management and arriving in a timely manner is an important skill and highly regarded for future careers and it should be a goal for all students to arrive to class on time. There are, of course, times where it can't be avoided and coming in with a pass from another teacher is acceptable! Arriving tardy for class hinders also learning for the student and is a distraction for both teacher and the class. Therefore for tardies this year, after the 3rd tardy, the student will report for a 15 minute detention before school with the assigned teacher (Thursday mornings) then to the AP's office if not served.

Bathroom and drink breaks will be allowed at the teacher's discretion and not during classroom activities. Students will be asked to leave phones on their desks or on my desk when they leave.

Involvement: I expect students to actively participate in all activities, be positive and helpful & complete all activities to the best of their ability! We will always be striving to improve on our communication skills in Spanish & we are always a work in progress! (including myself!) Do your best to go beyond what we are doing - it will get you to the next level:-D

Integrity: Doing your best at all times, helping others and being honest are ways to show integrity and are what we strive for here at Senior.

Consequences: Consequences for cheating, disrespect or other infractions will be given at the discretion of the teacher. Depending on the infraction, consequences could include phone call/ email to parent, behavior write up in office, detention or loss of classroom privileges.

Grading Plan:

The goal for grades in Spanish class is to provide feedback to students and their parents on how well students have mastered the following proficiencies:

The grade for this class is based on the following:

Speaking (Interpersonal and Presentational)	*20%
Writing (Interpersonal and Presentational)	*20%
Vocabulary	*15%
Grammatical Structure	*15%
Reading (Interpretive - comprehension)	*10%
Listening (Interpretive - comprehension)	*10%
Cultural Competency	*10%

*Percentages are approximate and grades are not weighted but by points.

A variety of assessments will be used to determine degree of proficiency/mastery. A point value will be assigned for each assessment.

*****Please note that not all assignments done in class or out of class are assessments. Some activities have the sole purpose of providing practice opportunities for students. Practice activities will not be included in the grade.***

Retakes of certain sections on tests, quizzes and written compositions will be upon the teacher's discretion and only if that student has completed the formative (practice) activities regarding those learning objectives. NO RETAKES WILL BE ALLOWED IF THE REQUIRED PRACTICE OR HOMEWORK IS NOT COMPLETED!

Communication Plan:

My primary plan for communicating with parents is through email. My email is kday@dbqschools.org. At the beginning of the year I will make an email group for each class. I will communicate with you about upcoming/ missing assignments/projects, your child's grade, and upcoming events such as parent - teacher conferences, WL week, etc..

My primary plan for communicating with students is through **Remind**, student email and online. Both of these communications systems are new in the district, so additional information and training will be available soon to both students and parents.

