

SPANISH 7-8 SYLLABUS
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Franklin High School 2019-20
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Tutorial Rm M102 on A days
Per. 1 Rm M116
Per. 2 Prep S217
Per. 3-4 Rm M102

Class Website:

The class website provides a link to the syllabus and background information about who I am as a teacher. I post due dates, copies of handouts, explanations, useful links and you use it to post some of your work. You are required to join the site and I recommend that you follow it regularly. To join, sign in to your apps4pps account. Go to Google Classroom. Enter the class code.

Course Description: This fourth year course will be rigorous + challenging + fun in order to push students towards advanced-level topics and proficiency. There will be an emphasis on more accuracy, more grammar and more extensive readings. Daily class revolves around practice through reading, writing, speaking and listening. Cultural practices and customs, history and geography of Spanish-speaking countries will be presented through text, videos, music and other supplementary materials. Communication takes a more realistic form as students include more details, begin to discuss hypothetical ideas, and transition between multiple verb tenses while narrating stories. This class is taught almost entirely in Spanish and students are expected to participate in Spanish. The purpose of class time is to practice using the language, therefore your active participation is crucial and students will be expected to maintain Spanish in the classroom: oral and written responses in class, small group work, whole class practice, etc. There is homework for EVERY class and your homework often prepares you to participate in class activities.

Teacher availability:

- 1- after school until 3:45
 - 2- Period 2 (my prep period): Please schedule this with me advance so that I can plan to make time for you.
 - 3- A Days only (I don't work on B days)
 - 4- Tutorial A days
- **Since I have two small children, I cannot meet with students before school.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Proficiency Goal: The goal by the end of the school year is to get you to an Intermediate High proficiency level. This means that you can handle situations with a complication and grammar errors exist, but there is a pattern to them. You can communicate about the community, your personal life, biographical information and the concrete details of a

situation using connected sentences in a paragraph-length discourse. Intermediate High indicates that you are being pushed to tackle Advanced level situations but cannot maintain it. This is a reminder of how you may feel at times this year.

Units: Since the goal is to push students towards Advanced level topics, the themes of the year will start students talking about their world and move them towards discussing the world.

First semester: Mi mundo

1. Mi identidad
2. Mi antepasado
3. Mi escritura
4. Mi salud

Second semester: El mundo

1. El medio ambiente y viajes
2. La migración humana
3. La tecnología
4. Unidad personal

PROFICIENCY-BASED CLASS

When learning a language, there are five domains that we try to master:

Productive

- 1- Writing
- 2- Interpersonal speaking
- 3- Presentational speaking

Interpretive

- 4- Reading comprehension
- 5- Listening comprehension

We will be working on all of these domains in class. Students are assessed on their reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency. The purpose is to see what a student can actually do with the language instead of how well they can take tests. Participation and interaction are crucial. It is not possible to be silent in class, but suddenly have a conversation for an oral assessment. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! Practice is why attendance, participation, homework and projects are so important. They give you the skills that you need to be successful in real life situations. Your exams are based on real life situations.

Attendance:

It is your responsibility to be in class ON TIME daily. We cover a lot every day, and when you miss even one day of class, you miss an hour or more of practice. Since I can not recreate a 90 minute class with you, absences will seriously impact your proficiency level. Absences need to be cleared with the office, and whenever possible, discussed beforehand with your teachers. It is your responsibility to visit the Google Classroom site to see what is due and **come prepared for the next class**. ABSENCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE!

Homework/practice outside of class: It is essential to develop study skills outside of class if you wish to truly learn the language. It is unlikely that you will earn an A in this class if you do not practice for 15 min a day, 5 days a week. You have homework for every class (2-3 days a week), but you should be practicing more than that, especially if you finish your homework in class. **Ideas for studying:**

1. Vocabulary flash cards
2. Study class notes and homework
3. Read (BBC Mundo news articles online, children's books from library)
4. Watch TV/movies (in English with Spanish subtitles teaches vocab, in Spanish)

- with English subtitles practices listening skills)
5. Music (YouTube makes it easy and accessible)
 6. Do a web search for grammar topics that you need help with – lots of online explanations and quizzes (studyspanish.com)

Expectations:

- 1- Mutual respect
- 2- Come to class prepared
- 3- Participate in Spanish

GRADES

Semester Grades: Grades are proficiency-based. Please do not come begging for different grades at the end of the semester. I may round up if you have a .5 or higher at the very end of the semester and I feel that you deserve it.

The grade breakdown:

A= 100 – 90%

B= 89.9 – 80 %

C= 79.9 – 70 %

D= 69.9 – 60 %

F= 59.9% or below

Description of students who earn a(n)...

A: Student completes homework, participates fully in class, positive attitude, studies vocab and grammar outside of class, studies for quizzes, asks for help, incorporates Spanish into life with additional practice (movies, music, conversation group, online practice, radio, events, etc.)

B: Good student but does not practice / participate as much as necessary

C: Student is generally not committed to learning Spanish

Grade Breakdown:

20% Practice work: Practice work is daily and is generally a reflection of your effort more than your accuracy. Examples include daily warm-ups, homework, participation in oral activities, etc. Daily homework assignments done before class receive full credit (10 pts). Incomplete work will receive partial credit (5 pts). Late homework is accepted for partial credit (7 pts) and may not be shown at a time that disrupts the flow of class (ok before class, end of class, after school, tutorial). Homework calendars and warm-ups sheets will be collected and grades entered monthly. It is your responsibility to bring these two documents daily.

30% Quizzes & Formative assessments: These reflect how well you are maintaining the details of class. Examples include vocabulary & grammar quizzes, rough drafts and conversation basics. For quizzes, retakes are allowed if within one week and student received lower than a 80%. Student can earn full credit on a retake. Students need to stay current because we constantly build upon what we learn in this class.

35% Summative assessments: These are a student's application of the language and can test reading, writing, speaking and/or listening. Retakes are allowed if within one week and student received a 80% or lower. Students can earn full credit on a retake.

*There are two types of writing assessments: presentational (essays) and on-demand

writing. On-demand writing assessments are completed in class in a timed setting to assess what a student can produce unassisted.

*There are two types of oral proficiency: presentational and communicative. Students will do both in class. Presentational can be in the format of small groups or whole class presentations. For communicative assessments, students receive a situation to have a conversation about. Often you do not know the topic in advance.

15% Final exam: Second semester's exam covers material from the entire year.

POLICIES

Retakes: Retakes are permitted if student scores lower than a 80% and communicates with the teacher to retake it within a reasonable amount of time of receiving one's grade (set up a time with the teacher – usually Tutorial):

- *Quizzes / oral assessments* – students receive instant feedback

- *Written assessments* – it takes time for me to grade these

Attitude: Be supportive! Be Franklin STRONG! In a language classroom, people need to feel comfortable in order to try things out and take risks. We expect you to be supportive, positive, and above all, TRY to use the language! It's a lot more fun when we're all taking risks and practicing together.

Bathroom/water: **Sign in/out in my class log notebook! Ask before you go.** I'm responsible for you in class and need to know where you are. There are times that I/the class cannot be interrupted with people getting up and leaving, or it is important material that you cannot miss. Just check with me first please. I keep track of when you leave..

Tardiness: If your body is not inside the classroom when/before the bell rings, **you are tardy!** There is a notebook by the door where you need to sign in with the date, time and reason you are late. Please don't wait for me to ask you to sign-in. I will contact a guardian if tardiness is an issue.

Tutorial: I will be in M102 on A days. I may be able to set you up with another teacher on B Day Tutorial if you talk to me in advance.

Phones: No phones permitted in class unless it is directed as part of a class activity. It distracts from the community and the learning environment if someone is not with us mentally. It also distracts me and my teaching. If used during class, I will follow Franklin policies and confiscate / send it to the office.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Many things count as cheating or plagiarism: copying another student's homework, doing homework "together" where multiple students end up with the same answer word for word, using Google Translator instead of a dictionary, copying whole phrases directly from the internet, eyes wandering during an assessment, etc. Plagiarism does not earn credit. Student will receive a 0 and other consequences if caught plagiarizing. USE A DICTIONARY, either a book or an online one (*wordreference.com*) to look up isolated words. No translation programs are ever allowed and are considered cheating. It is very obvious when these programs are used! A WONDERFUL website for an online Spanish-English dictionary is *wordreference.com*. There is even an app that you can download on your smart phone. This website is an online DICTIONARY (not a translator). Spanish-English dictionaries are excellent tools, whether it be a printed book or an online dictionary. We do have printed dictionaries in

class on the bookshelf, or you can check one out at the library.

Unexcused absences: If you have an **unexcused absence** on the day of an assessment, **no make ups are permitted**. It is not fair to other students nor respectful of my time.

Food: Only water and mess/crumb/noise-free snacks are allowed in class. You must throw away all garbage. If the class cannot follow these rules, food and drink will need to be banned. We share the space with other teachers and their students who do not want to see your mess. We need to make sure that mice and bugs are not introduced into our new building.

*What to bring:

You are required to have them with you every day in class:

1. Enthusiasm and willingness to learn
2. Notebook with a dedicated section for Spanish (will take notes)
3. Folder, or a section in a binder (LOTS of handouts in class)
4. Writing utensil
5. Highlighter
6. Dry erase marker (used for games)
7. Dictionary (small pocket dictionary or the Word Reference app on your phone)

Student Accommodations and support available:

Differentiated instruction is evident in this class through the use of oral responses, visual aids, interpersonal activities, physical activities in games, music and other activities. Oral exams are diversified to accommodate all learners. I am available to offer additional support after school and planning periods. Please plan ahead and schedule a specific time with me if you want to ensure that I will be available. Please speak to me privately if you require additional assistance and I will be happy to work with you.

Discipline: If a problem arises, you and I will resolve it. If it persists, I will take the following actions:

1. Loss of privileges & student / teacher conference.
2. Phone call to parent / guardian.
3. Referral to vice principal, counselor, Restorative Justice specialist or other specialist in order to resolve the problem.
4. Removal from class until issue is resolved or permanent removal from class.

I need TAs now and parent volunteers soon. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP! Students must also contact their counselor.

I, _____, have read, understand and agree to adhere to the Spanish 7-8 Syllabus. I will keep this syllabus in my folder as a resource throughout the year. I also understand that there is a copy to reference on Google Classroom.

Student signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___