

Course Description:

This Spanish class is a continuation of the material that students began learning in grades 6 and 7. Lessons will closely follow those given in the text book, but other relevant grammatical and cultural lessons may also be included. This course will help students to listen and respond to verbal Spanish, read and understand pieces written in Spanish, write in Spanish themselves, and gain a deeper cultural understanding of the Hispanic World.

Course Expectations:

Students in this Spanish class are expected to build on what they have learned in previous years to deepen their knowledge of the Spanish language and improve their Spanish skills. Students should come to each class fully prepared, with all necessary materials and any assignments completed and ready to be turned in. Students are expected to put forth their best effort, and to ask for help when needed.

Textbooks and Materials:

- *Realidades B – 2004 – Prentice Hall*
- One 1- inch binder
- Lined loose leaf paper (to be replenished as needed throughout the year)
- 5 binder dividers
- Index cards

Grading Plan:

Grades are calculated according to the Diocesan Grading Criteria. Assignments fall under the following categories:

Class-work (35%): Class participation, in-class assignments, binder grade, vocabulary quizzes

Independent work (15%): Cultural writing assignments (written in English), study guides

Homework (10%)

Assessments (40%): Chapter tests, projects, writing assignments (written in Spanish), concept quizzes

- **Class participation:** In order to get a 5 for participation, students must participate either verbally or by sharing answers on the board at least once a week.
- **Binder grade:** Students must keep organized binders. Binders will be set up in class during the first week of school, and must be maintained. Binders will be checked at least twice per trimester.
- **Vocabulary quizzes:** Vocab quizzes will be given frequently throughout the year. These quizzes are direct English to Spanish or Spanish to English translation, and success is based upon students studying the vocabulary independently. Notice will be given at least 2 classes prior to each quiz.
- **Writing assignments in English:** Students will be required to write several short (1-3 page) papers on a variety of cultural or history topics (ex: el Día de los Muertos). Students will be given at least 1 week to write these papers.
- **Study guides:** Before Chapter tests, students may be given a study guide consisting of various activities to help them prepare for the test. This study guide should be completed and handed in before the test is given in order to receive full credit.
- **Homework:** Homework will be given after almost every class and is due the next class period. Homework handed in 1 day late will receive no more than a 4, and homework that is 2 days late will receive no more than a 3.
- **Chapter tests:** Chapter tests will cover all of the concepts presented in each chapter, and will use vocabulary presented in current and previous chapters. Students will be given at least 1 week's notice before each chapter test.

- **Projects:** Students will be required to complete at least 1 project per trimester. Projects may be assigned individually or in groups. Projects will be presented during class. Students will be given sufficient time to complete projects, and are expected to work on them outside of school.
- **Writing assignments in *Spanish*:** Students will be required to write at least 1 piece per semester in the Spanish language. Assignments might include essays, letters, or stories, and students will be required to use certain concepts in each paper (ex: present progressive tense, past tense, etc.) These papers will be assigned at least 2 weeks prior to their due date, and students will have an opportunity to submit a draft to me one week before the due date for revision. If no draft is submitted, the grade received on the final paper is not negotiable.
- **Concept quizzes:** Students will occasionally be quizzed on some lessons prior to chapter tests to check for understanding. Concept quizzes will include 1 or 2 individual lessons and will use vocabulary from the chapter. Students will be notified at least 2 classes before these quizzes are given.

Class rules:

1. Always demonstrate respect for your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.
2. Bring all of your materials to every class. This means your book, binder, paper to write on, and a pen/pencil.
3. Do not leave anything in your desk at the end of class. These desks are used by every student, and every student deserves a clean space to work in.
4. Participate in a positive way and always do your personal best.
5. Visit the class website and edline often to make sure that you are on track, and speak to me or email me if you have any concerns about your grade.
6. Do not use any electronics without permission. This includes phones, laptops, and tablets.

Absence Policy:

If a student is absent, he or she should refer to the class website to see what he or she missed. Class work, homework, and class notes will be posted regularly, and it is the student’s responsibility to complete missed assignments in a timely fashion, as well as to get class notes from either the website or a classmate.

If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, he or she must make an appointment with me to make it up. Make up assessments will be completed after school within one week (7 consecutive days) of missing the assessment.

Extra Help:

Extra help will be available for any student that asks for it. I will stay after school until 4:15 every Tuesday for walk-in help, and can stay on Monday, Thursday, or Friday upon request. Students must give at least one day’s notice if they would like to stay on a day other than Tuesday.

I have read and understand the rules for Señorita Flaherty’s Spanish class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____