**Español I 254-5264**

**Señora Davis sdavis@cppschools.com**

**Course Description and Guidelines**

Welcome to Spanish! ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! Did you know that our brains are wired a certain way to learn language? Think about how babies learn their native language. Parents adjust their speech to be as comprehensible (understandable) as possible. They use lots of repetition and visual cues to help their babies acquire the language. Does the baby speak right away? No. Most children start speaking at about one year of age. That first year is spent soaking in language. Research shows that language is acquired from comprehensible input. That means that what comes into our brains (either from listening or reading) must be understandable. For that reason, you can expect lots of comprehensible input every day in Spanish class!

In some ways Spanish is like Kindergarten because we learn the alphabet, we learn to count, we sing and we listen to stories. However, Spanish class will be more sophisticated because you are older now. Many people say it is best to learn a second language when you are young. Research actually shows that children can pick up a natural *accent* better, but adults are faster at learning a second language because they know more language to begin with and have more life experiences. You will learn Spanish faster than a Kindergartner would.

This process will be simulated in Spanish class with a methodology called TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). You will be exposed to as much Spanish as possible through listening and reading, intentionally tailored to your level of understanding.

**What if I don’t get it?**

Stop me! You MUST stop me if I go too fast. If there is ever a time when you do not understand something I just said, you must raise your hand and stop me. If you do not understand, you cannot learn! I already know the language, and sometimes I forget how difficult it is to learn. I also feel like I am boring you by going so slow, but you need to remind me that the brain needs lots of repetition before it truly acquires the language.

**What will we learn this year?**

Students will learn to read, write, listen and speak better Spanish. We will investigate some Spanish grammar, acquire lots of vocabulary and learn about the Spanish-speaking culture. We will read stories from the series Look I Can Talk by Blaine Ray, and learn various songs that help us understand Spanish-speaking culture and memorize certain words. We will watch some DVD’s that help us learn about the Spanish language and culture.

**What do I need for Spanish class?**

**\***You need to PARTICIPATEand ATTEND REGULARLY. If you miss class you miss HUGE amounts of practice!

\*You need to bring your Spanish binder and writing utensil every day. Your binder should

contain plenty of lined paper for writing down vocabulary words.

\*You occasionally will need a dictionary, but are welcome to use one from my classroom.

**What can I expect as far as homework and other assignments?**

**\***You will have minimal homework if class time is used effectively.

\*You will sometimes need to study vocabulary before a test or quiz. Some ways to review vocabulary include: using actions to review the vocab, making flash cards or having someone quiz you.

\*Assignments are due at the beginning of the hour on their established due date. Points will be deducted for late assignments.

**What if I am absent?**

\*YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING UP WORK YOU HAVE MISSED. All make-up work must be done within two days of the time it was missed, or it will be recorded as a zero.

\*If you have been notified of an assignment, quiz or test several days in advance, you will be responsible for that material by the original deadline even if you are absent a day or two before it’s due.

\*Please make arrangements with me to make up missed quizzes or tests.

**What will quizzes and test be like?**

Tests and quizzes are sometimes unannounced. Why? Because I don’t want to know what you crammed in your head for one day and will forget tomorrow. I want to know what you truly have acquired. The purpose of quizzes is to alert you to which words you need to study more and to alert me as to which words I need to go over more in class. Spanish tests and quizzes may assess reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, as well as knowledge of the content we are learning in class.

**Will there be re-takes?**

Re-takes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any re-takes of a test or quiz must be completed within two weeks of the time the assessment was given.

**What about cheating?**

Do your own work. If you are caught cheating, administration and your parents will be notified. You will receive a zero on the test, quiz or assignment for the first offense. If you are caught a second time, you will receive a failing grade for the course for the semester. Some examples of cheating include:

 \*copying or giving answers on any assignment, project, test, quiz, etc.

 \*talking during tests or quizzes

 \*acquiring any handout, test or quiz without teacher permission

 \*use of electronic devices (translators, cell phones, headphones, cameras) during a test or

 quiz

 \*use of translator programs to complete writing assignments

 \*unauthorized use of notes or “cheat sheets”

**How do you grade?**

Daily Work and Participation – 20%

Tests, Quizzes and Other Assessments – 60%

Mid Semester Exam – 10%

End of Semester Exam – 10%

My grading scale is:

A (92.5) C (72.5)

A- (89.5) C- (69.5)

B+ (86.5) D+ (66.5)

B (82.5) D (62.5)

B- (79.5) D- (59.5)

C+ (76.5) E anything below 60%

**What are the class rules and procedures?**

\*Treat everyone in the class with respect, courtesy and kindness

\*Follow instructions the first time they are given

\*Honor diversity

\*Have a positive attitude or at least pretend to

\*Be kind to substitute teachers

\*Touch only your own materials unless INVITED to do otherwise

\*UFO’s and IFO’s are prohibited

\*Take your seats at the beginning of the hour and remain there until the bell rings

Bathroom Policy: If you decide to go to the bathroom or the drinking fountain, you will owe me two minutes after the bell rings.

Cell Phone Policy: Phones that are used during class will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

Earbud Policy: You may listen to music individually after tests or quizzes.

**What happens if I don’t follow a rule?**

You will be given a verbal warning. If the problem continues, I will implement one of the following consequences depending on the “nature” of the infraction:

 \*The student fills out a written plan for behavior improvement

 \*The teacher deducts time from Preferred Activity Time

 \*The teacher contacts the students’ parents

 \*The teacher assigns the student a detention

 \*The teacher sends the student to the office

*Please read and discuss these class policies with your parent or guardian and sign in the appropriate spaces.*

**I have read and understand Señora Davis’s Course Description and Guidelines and fully agree to abide by its terms.**

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Student Name (please print) Date

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Student Signature E-mail address (if available)

**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

**I am anxious to work with both you and your child this school year. Feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone with any concerns or questions you may have. In order to make communication easier, please provide any contact information below and note which method of communication you prefer.**

**Sincerely,**

**Sara Davis**

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Parent or Guardian Name (please print) Date

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Parent or Guardian Signature E-mail address (if available)