

INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH

SYLLABUS 2019-2020

INSTRUCTOR: ZACHARY DZIERZGOWSKI

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

As per the curriculum documents, This course is designed as an introduction course for the student who has little or no experience with the Spanish language. The course is an interactive introduction to Spanish emphasizing the interpretive, interpersonal and presentational modes of communication in the target language and the essentials of the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn to use Spanish to engage in elements of basic daily life in predictable common settings at the Novice Mid level and move along the proficiency continuum towards a Novice High as established by the American Council for the Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

GRADING PROCEDURES: Grading on report cards is:

- 50% Primary Assessments (benchmarks, tests, projects)
- 35% Secondary Assessments (class participation, quizzes)
- 15% Support Assessments (homework, preparation)

MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY:

1. All About Me
2. School Community
3. My Community
4. Food and Celebrations

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Be **respectful!** Respect yourself, respect your instructor, and respect your classmates. We are all equals,



and you are expected to treat others the way you want to be treated.

2. Arrive to class on-time, prepared, and begin daily warm-ups immediately.
3. Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Stay on task, complete all assignments, and allow others to do the same!
5. Work from start to finish; do not pack up or get out your seat until the **instructor** has dismissed class.
6. Actively participate using the **target language** to the best of your ability!

A NOTE ON PARTICIPATION:

- Participation will be evaluated regularly during the marking period. Though only 15% of marking period grades, it is perhaps **the most important** for improving your overall grade.
- Language proficiency is only “grown” through extensive amounts of comprehensible, contextualized language input and *consistent* negotiation of meaning between speakers.
- In order to successfully acquire a new language, active participation is **CRUCIAL**. Participation means being engaged in classroom activities, listening attentively when someone is speaking, arriving to class **ON TIME** and **PREPARED**, remaining in the target language, etc.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES:

- Cell phone use during class without explicit permission from the instructor will **NOT** be tolerated. **Cell phones are to remain out of sight and silenced.**
- Students caught using a cellphone during class time will have the phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
- If a student’s cell phone use becomes a chronic problem, further disciplinary action will ensue including parental contact, detention, and/or referral to the vice principal.

HOMEWORK:

- Homework will be given on an ongoing basis to reinforce skills and content being studied in class. Homework is always given a due date, and failure to meet that due date (usually the following day) will result in a **zero with no opportunity for make-up**.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ASSESSMENTS:

- Primary and secondary assessments are required in all academic courses at the high school. They will be evaluated using relevant rubrics and grading criteria, which will be made available to students beforehand and clearly explained by the instructor.
- Failure to complete *any* of the designated criteria for a primary or secondary assessment and/or minimal demonstration of effort on any facet of an assessment will have a negative impact on the student's overall evaluation.
- Students are **strongly** advised to develop their work beyond the minimum passing levels as determined by the instructor, and they are encouraged to confer with the instructor on ways in which they can develop their final products.
- Timely completion is a fundamental criterion for all assessments; late assignments will be penalized according to the following policy:



- 10% grade reduction off of the final grade if the major assessment is not submitted on the due date at the designated time. Additional 10% reductions will be given for two days subsequent to the due date. **After this time has passed, the grade is reduced to no credit (zero).**

- Specific IEP stipulations and 504 Plan Modifications are exceptions to this policy.

MAKE UP WORK, ABSENCES, AND LATENESS:

- It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding absences, late work, and make up assignments. In any of these events, the instructor and student will work to determine a definite date by which the student will turn in the completed work.
- If there are serious concerns about a student's ability to complete an assignment within the timeframe established by the instructor, the student should alert the instructor within a reasonable amount of time (i.e. *not the night before something is due.*) Together, they will determine a definite date by which the student will turn in the completed work.

DISCIPLINE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- Discipline will be administered in accordance with the student code of conduct. Upon the first infraction, a verbal warning will be given to the student. In the event of second or third violations/serious or repeated adverse behavior, the student will receive detention and/or a phone call home.
- Students are expected to abide by the policies established regarding academic integrity, and any cases of cheating, falsification, plagiarism, etc. will be handled in accordance with those policies.

ONLINE TRANSLATORS:

- *The use of online translators is considered unacceptable.* Should a student need to look up individual words, they should use **wordreference.com**. Internet translators, including Google Translate, are notoriously unreliable and discourage effective language learning by any student.
- If the instructor has reason to believe that a student used an online translator to complete an assignment, the instructor may ask the student to complete the assignment again and resubmit their work for reduced credit.

EXTRA HELP:

- At the first signs of difficulty, you are encouraged to seek extra help immediately. Speak with your instructor to receive options and determine the best possible course of action.

FINAL COMMENTS:

- This class will be conducted almost entirely in Spanish except in rare cases where clarification is absolutely necessary. You are expected to remain in the target language to the best of your ability unless otherwise directed by your instructor. **Use of English will negatively impact your grade.**
- Ability levels as well as personal comfort levels in speaking will more than likely vary in this class. We will all work together to provide opportunities for consistent contextual language inputs as well as genuine and meaningful production. It is ***THE STUDENT'S*** responsibility to make every effort to communicate and participate!
- You ***WILL*** make mistakes! *Those mistakes are part of the language acquisition process!* As long as you are working to the best of your ability in the target language, you should be successful in this class.
- The emphasis in class will not be on absolute grammatical precision, but rather on ***meaningful communication***. It is expected that we will all work toward creating a receptive and comfortable class atmosphere to enhance oral and written production.