

## **Course Syllabus**

### **Spanish 1B (8th grade)**

Teacher: Mrs. Lori Smith

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**Extra help:** I am available most activity periods. You need to communicate when you need extra help by emailing me. I can plan to do a google meet with you but I need to know ahead of time.

**Materials:** Hybrid learners, each school day, you should have your chromebook, a pen or a pencil and your composition notebook (I can provide you a notebook if you need one). I am planning to keep as much digital this year as possible. For online learners, everything will be in google classroom for you.

#### **Course description:**

In this course, our goal is to acquire spanish language. “Acquiring” a language is very different from “learning” a language. Acquiring is something that happens TO you instead of something that you make happen. When you learned how to speak your first language, you acquired it naturally by listening to other people speaking it around you for a long time, not by studying it. Therefore almost all of our class time will be spent using spanish, not using English to talk about Spanish. The focus of this class will be on listening and reading. We will also do some speaking and writing but I expect you to make mistakes so you will not be graded as heavily on those skills. Please do not use google translate or any other translator apps, they will not help you. I will give you the words you need in our lessons and you should use those words when writing or speaking, learning a language is a slow process and it won’t help you to just translate paragraphs or pages at a time, trust me to give you the vocabulary you need.

We will focus our class time on the acquisition of high frequency structures (The most frequently used words in a language). We will use these structures in class discussions, stories and cultural explorations. Before your year ends, we

will read two class novels together, these will be available online and I can also provide paper copies to any student who wants one.

### **Class expectations - your keys to success:**

Because I have high expectations for you, I also have high expectations for myself. I expect you to be respectful, responsible and safe students and I will in turn be a respectful, responsible and safe teacher. I am a rule follower, I will be enforcing all the school rules.

<b><u>Student Responsibilities:</u></b>	<b><u>Teacher responsibilities:</u></b>
Speak Spanish, Not english!	Speak Spanish, not English!
Be respectful of yourself, your teachers, your classmates and your school.	Be respectful of my students, myself, my colleagues and my school.
Come to class prepared with the materials you need to do your best work.	Come to class prepared with an organized lesson plan and all the needed materials.
Pay attention to the teacher.	Listen to my students.
Participate actively. Ask questions when you don't understand.	Check to make sure that students understand what I am teaching, help them until they do.
Spend at least 15 minutes outside of class each day looking over stories, vocabulary list etc.	Spend time reviewing material in class each day, build on information students already know.
Complete all assignments on time.	Grade and return all assignments as they are submitted.
Practice and re-do everything until you understand it.	Help my students practice and allow them to re-do work until they understand it.
Do something for spanish class each day, don't do it all in one day, it's better to do a little each day.	Give assignments that don't take too much time allowing students to do something each day for 15 minutes.

### **Absence policy:**

Your class will spend 38 minutes each day acquiring language (The easy way) and you may have to spend a similar amount of time at home to make up the learning that you missed when absent. Check with me as soon as you return to see what work needs to be made up.

### **Entering the room:**

These things should be done BEFORE the bell rings:

- Take out your composition notebook
- Take out a pen or a pencil
- Be sitting at your seat
- Begin working silently on the bell ringer or sign into the chromebook.

### **Leaving the room:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not pack up early! Begin the clean up process 1-2 minutes before the bell.

### **Academic integrity:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Academic integrity is being honest and responsible with regard to your schoolwork. Please follow these guidelines:

- You may not copy another student's work or allow someone to copy your work.
- You may not use online translators to write sentences or essays.
- You must cite any website, book, article etc from which you gather information.

## **So how do I get my grade?**

Advanced	A	ADV	95	You are confident and are reaching for the next level.
Proficient	B	Prof	85	You consistently meet the standard without help from the teacher and are ready to move on.
Developing	C	Dev	75	You can meet the standards in familiar tasks and situations.
Emerging	D	Em	65	You know what to do to meet the standard and can do some things but need help accomplishing it.
Beginning	F	Beg	55	You know what the standard is, but are confused and probably frustrated. You need some help to get started.
No attempt	F	N/S	0	You have not done enough to be evaluated.

**Grade categories:**

The target proficiency levels and the corresponding expectations for speaking, writing, reading and listening will vary depending on the topic and time of year. Detailed expectations will be given for each assessment. The expectations for work habits are listed below:

**Proficiency Expectation: Novice-Mid**

**Reading 25%**

**Writing 10%**

**Practice 10%**

**Listening 25%**

**Speaking 10%**

**Final 20%**

**Class participation:** You look like you are engaged (Participating and paying attention) by maintaining eye contact with the teacher and sitting up straight. You speak Spanish whenever possible. Online learners are submitting something each day to show engagement.

**Behavior:** You are kind and respectful of yourself, your classmates, your teacher and the school. You do not disrupt the learning environment.

**Homework:** All assignments are complete and handed in on time.

**Preparation:** You have all materials in class with you every day.

This will be a challenging year for all of us, I look forward to working with you and learning along with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time. I want you to succeed! Buena suerte = Good luck