Welcome to Spanish Language & Culture!

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In this class we will be learning about many of the cultural events that take place in Spanish speaking countries around the world, and will do so with games, projects, movement, and activities. We will also discuss the countries where each of these events takes place and learn Spanish vocabulary and grammar to accompany each of our mini- units. Over the course of this quarter, we will cover just a few examples of the following cultural traditions, as well as supplemental vocabulary:

* Landmarks (Chichén Itzá & Mayan traditions, Machu Picchu & Incan traditions)
* Festivals & Holidays (Carnaval, Día de los Muertos, Las Fallas, La Tomatina, San Fermines)
* Vocabulary: Spanish alphabet, numbers, colors, calendar, emotions
* Grammar: Common verbs and/or sayings (greetings, emotions, common phrases)

Supplies Needed EVERY DAY:

* 1 dry erase marker
* Notebook/loose-leaf paper
* Folder for storing vocabulary lists & daily assignments
* Writing utensils
* Computer

Late Work Policy:

* Larger assignments or projects: Each day your assignment is late, you will forfeit 10% of your grade. After 5 days, you will earn a zero unless otherwise discussed.
* Smaller assignments: On the first day your assignment is late, you will receive 50% off of your grade. After that, you will earn a zero unless otherwise discussed.
* *Note: If you turn in an assignment late, chances are likely that your assignment will go to the bottom of my grading pile. If I allow you to turn in your work past its deadline, expect that I will also be delayed in grading it.*

Classroom Expectations:

* keep an open mind
* ask for help
* take notes
* take turns speaking & listen to others
* RESPECT yourself and others
* complete assignments to your best ability
* push yourself to do your best

Expected Classroom Procedures:

1. Bring all learning materials (ex: book, homework, paper, etc.) to class *every* day. Although needing a pencil in a language class may be surprising, you will be writing often in my classroom. Bring books, PENS, PENCILS, computer, etc. with you EVERY DAY. Leaving class to go to your locker will not be permitted. for this reason is a teacher pet-peeve. Be prepared! (*insert frustration here*)
2. Be in the classroom and in your seat as the bell rings. I will take attendance within the first minute of class. If you are not in the room, you will be marked absent. If you are not in your seat, you’ll be marked tardy.
3. Snacks are not allowed in our classrooms this year. Snacks are acceptable in the classroom as long as they’re not a distraction.Drinks (water & juice) are allowed as long as they have a screw-on cap, but cans will be thrown away.
4. Sorry, but I will forget to hand back your graded assignments. Please be diligent to hand back papers in your bin before the bell rings or during work time. Volunteers are appreciated.
5. Show others respect through actions and appropriate language at all times. I will not tolerate bullying or teasing. If you choose to violate the respect policy, you will serve a detention with me and fill out a “Respect Write-Up” form explaining how you could’ve acted in a different manner.
6. If you are absent it is YOUR responsibility to get any notes or missed assignments. Speak with me personally or ask a classmate for help. And yes, we “did stuff” while you were gone. We didn’t just sit around waiting for you…
7. Leave your work area clean and in order for the next student- that includes any area designated as storage space for student materials. I’m your teacher- not your maid. Pick up your stuff!
8. Be careful when using information from the internet. Handing in anything other than your own, original thought, is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Therefore, make sure to FULLY cite any pictures, information, or ideas you use from outside sources. Any examples of cheating will earn zeros, which is most likely detrimental to your overall grade. Take your assignments seriously and be responsible for your own work.
9. Using online translators like Google Translate should be avoided at all costs. Not only are they often incorrect, but they’re not the best way to help you learn. Instead, choose to use [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) as your online dictionary.
10. Phones will not be used in our classroom. If you feel you work best with music, load your computer with music ahead of time & come prepared to class with headphones. I have no problem with you using technology to listen to your music; however, I do have a problem with you Snapchatting me during class… If you use your phone without permission, it will be taken & reported to the office.
	1. *Food for thought: Classrooms without cell phones have shown to have higher*

*test scores and overall academic success.*

Grading Scale:

A+ 99-100% A 95-98% A- 93-94%

B+ 91-92% B 88-90% B- 86-87%

C+ 84-85% C 80-83% C- 78-79%

D+ 76-77% D 72-75% D- 70-71%

F 69% or below