**Español I**

**Maestra**: Señora Ness

**Clase**: 415

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Over the course of this class, we will discuss many topics related to the Spanish language; including grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Furthermore, we will use various learning techniques to practice the language. These learning techniques include reading, writing, speaking, and listening. I look forward to working with and getting to know each of you! **¡Bienvenidos!**

**Supplies Needed:**

* **2 or more dry erase markers (PLEASE! we will use these DAILY)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
* 1 box of Kleenex
* Binder or folder (for storing handouts, assignments, and notes)
* Notebook for notes, journals, & daily assignments (SPECIFICALLY for this class)
* *Strongly suggested*: Spanish-English dictionary

**In this class, you will be able to:**

* Recite the ABCs, identify colors and shades , and count into the millions
* Say the date, time, and describe the weather
* Introduce yourself and tell someone how you feel
* Describe and identify family members and the world around you
* Identify countries and capitals of Spanish-speaking countries
* Conjugate and identify a variety of verbs

**Your grade will be based on the following:**

* Tests, quizzes, presentations, projects, reading responses, and daily writing/listening/speaking activities
* Since we’re talking about grades…
* I typically grade on weekends, so please be understanding & flexible with Skyward updates throughout the week. Just because you turned in your assignment today, doesn’t mean it should or will be graded *immediately*. We have many obligations as teachers; grading is just one of them
* *Note: You must earn a “C” average or better to graduate to Spanish II*

**The Infamous Re-Do Policy:**

* You have the option to re-do large assignments (tests, major projects, etc.) ONLY if you fill out an “insurance” policy with me ahead of time. The “insurance” policy states that if you seek my help 2+ times during the week before the assessment\* (or earlier), I will ensure that you have the option to re-take the assessment if you receive a C- or lower. However, this is not an option for cumulative tests, such as final exams or oral presentations. *\*Note: This does not include ELT time.*

**Late Work Policy:**

* Larger assignments or projects: Each day your assignment is late, you will forfeit 10% of your grade. After 5 days, you must get special permission from me to turn your assignment in for credit. Otherwise, your assignment will remain a zero.
* Smaller assignments: On the first day your assignment is late, you’ll receive 50% off your grade. After that, you must get special permission from me to turn your assignment in for credit. Otherwise, your assignment will remain a zero.
* 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.

**A special note about online translators:**

* Technology is a great thing; however, it has a tendency to get students in trouble in Spanish class. Any student suspected of using an online translator on any assignment will receive a zero for that assignment & be required to re-do the assignment in his or her own words for partial credit. USING ONLINE TRANSLATORS IS CONSIDERED CHEATING AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Besides, what are you really learning by using them??? Instead, feel free to use **wordreference.com** as an online reference tool when working outside of the classroom. Also, there’s this thing called a *dictionary*…

**Expected Classroom Procedures:**

* SPEAK IN SPANISH WHENEVER POSSIBLE. The best way to learn a language is to use it. If you are not sure how to say something, use circumlocution to describe the message you are trying to get across. Still confused? Look up the word in a dictionary! In this class, taking responsibility of your own learning is essential.
* Bring all learning materials (ex: book, homework, paper, etc.) to class *every* day. Leaving class to go to your locker is no longer permitted for this reason is a teacher pet-peeve. If you forget a pencil or other essential item, PROBLEM SOLVE and ask to borrow one. DUH.
* 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.
* Computers will only be used in class as requested. They will not be used for translators during class, or to take notes. Although I expect you to bring your computers to class every day, I don’t expect to see them open unless told to do so. If necessary, please speak to me personally for other arrangements.
* Begin working on your daily writing or speaking prompt as soon as you enter the room at the beginning of the hour. If you don’t understand what the question/sentence starter is asking, find a dictionary or ask a classmate for help. I will expect you to be ready to answer within the first few minutes of class; again, be responsible for your own learning!
* Take notes! Study them! Use them! Sleep with them! Dream of them! Live them!
* You will not be allowed to eat in our classroom this year. Drinks (water & juice) are acceptable as long as they have a screw on cap, but cans will be thrown away. Snacks are acceptable in the classroom if 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. Keep ALL food and drink items away from your computers.
* 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.
* Show others respect through actions and appropriate language at all times. If you choose to violate the respect policy, you will serve a detention with me after school, clean my room, and fill out a “Respect Write-Up” form explaining how you could’ve acted differently.
* 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!
* If absent, it’s YOUR responsibility to get notes or missed assignments. Speak with me personally or ask a classmate for help.
* Need to use the bathroom? GOOD FOR YOU! Instead of interrupting class to ask permission, please follow these rules:
* You must wear the bathroom pass (sombrero in back of room).
* You may only be gone 5 minutes. If an emergency occurs & you will need more time, speak with me first.
* Sign out and back in when you return, including times. Sign out is by the sombrero. If I can’t read your writing, or you habitually neglect to sign out, your privileges may be revoked.
* NO SIGNING OUT DURING THE FIRST OR LAST 5 MINUTES of class, or in the middle of a discussion/instructions. Find an appropriate time or lose your privileges.
* Phones will not be used in our school. 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 and set on my desk, then reported to the office.
* *Food for thought: Classrooms without cell phones have shown to have higher*

*test scores and overall academic success*

* In the case of a school lockdown or emergency, follow my lead. Depending on our situation, we may need to do one of three things: escape through the windows, group together and formulate a plan for self-defense (what can be used as weapons?!) or barricade, hide and wait silently. We will discuss this further throughout the year.

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 99-100% B+ = 91-92% C+ = 84-85% D+ = 76-77%

A = 95-98% B = 88-90% \*C = 80-83% D = 72-75%

A- = 93-94% B- = 86-87% C- = 78-79% D- = 70-71%

F = 69% or Below - No Credit

*\* Note: You must earn a “C” average or better to graduate to Spanish III*