MS Spanish 1

Course Overview

Instructor:
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Course Web page: classroom.google.com

About the Course

This is an introductory course that encourages students to embrace the Spanish language and all the Hispanic cultures as they learn through communicative activities by following the best practices of *Lincoln School's World Language Standards*. This class also blends the underlying principles of the five C's (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities) with features and strategies tailored specifically to build students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students are given the tools to express themselves in the target language through imitation, initiate meaningful interactions with their classmates, and establish a strong foundation to become effective communicators in Spanish.

Course Structure

Students use freshly presented vocabulary as a new code to express basic grammar structures and participate in the context of specific thematic units. They get involved by personalizing the contexts by comparing them to their own experiences. Once students see that Spanish is a tool for expressing their own ideas, students bridge their exposure with conversations in accurate cultural contexts for effective training in both comprehension and personal communication. Students discern the culture of specific Hispanic regions through short informational reading texts. Then, in each unit a formal presentation of relevant grammar concepts along with respective activities help build confidence, fluency, and accuracy.

Students actively engage in a variety of learning situations, which include dialogues and skits, cooperative learning groups, personal presentations, games, and various full-class interactive exercises. There are regularly announced tests and/or projects to assess understanding of and ability to actively apply the material. Students examine the following grammar concepts: gender of nouns, article/adjective/verb agreement, subject pronouns, regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, stem-changing verb conjugations, possession, and word order for statements and questions. Students expand awareness of the Spanish-speaking world via current events, music, and other cultural expressions.

Students should be prepared to be active learners, participating fully in individual and group work, as well as class discussions, and using the covered concepts when completing assignments.

Major themes for the course include:

- Greetings
- Courtesy
- Personal Descriptions
- Family
- Home
- School Life
- Culinary Arts
- Sports

Assessment

Students' learning is assessed in different categories throughout the year, including:

- Notebook 10 %
- Portfolio 20%
- Active participation in class discussions/activities 20%
- Projects and presentations 20%
- Quizzes 10%
- Tests 20%

Course Text

The primary source for the course is *¡Así se dice!1* Glencoe/McGraw Hill including its online "eStudio Site" that comes with an electronic workbook, cultural videos, and other engaging activities. We use some other relevant online materials that are linked to the class website.

Students should bring to class:

- A personal computer (BYOD)
- A binder or folder for holding loose papers
- A couple of writing utensils

It is a central aim of this course for all students to succeed, and grow from their experiences. Therefore we hold to three simple ideals, that will foster the growth of all students:

- Communicate in the target language
- Listen to all voices
- Strive for excellence

I am always available to help students, during or outside class time. ¡Bienvenidos!