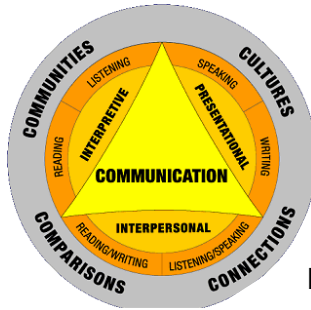


ESPAÑOL 4 con Señor WILLIAMSON

Leavitt Area High School—2010-2011



You will be acquiring Spanish this year in some fun yet very effective ways. Our central goal is **COMMUNICATION** in the Spanish language. We will also explore Spanish-speaking and other world **cultures** and make cultural and linguistic **comparisons** with our own. **Connections** with other subjects (science, social studies, etc.) will be made through the language throughout the year. We will also explore opportunities to use the Spanish language outside the classroom in a larger **community**.

How will we learn in this class?

We will use many fun and interesting strategies to acquire the Spanish language. In the beginning I will often give you commands and you will respond by physically doing something. It's a lot like how you learned your native language when your parents told you what to do when you were very little: "Come here. Sit down. Eat your peas. Don't hit your sister." This period will be quick as you are already at an advanced level in Spanish. We will explore advanced topics in Spanish.

Research on how we learn has proven that we remember better and longer what we have actually experienced physically. Gesturing and acting out commands will help you acquire the language more quickly. Another very powerful way to acquire language (also supported by research) is through stories or narrative. The primary teaching method in this class will be TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling).



We will also use a variety of supplementary materials such as songs, poetry, short stories, novels, short plays, newspaper articles, videos, computer activities (among others) during the course of the year. This class will be intense, interactive, adventurous, and fun.

Stories

We will create and even act out situations or stories in class to work with new vocabulary. Often the stories will be silly, improbable, crazy or bizarre. This serves two purposes: 1) to maintain focus while communicating in the language & 2) to aid long-term memory. We use props and movement to make it easy for you to understand at all times. I prefer to laugh a lot in class and I hope that you do as well because we tend to have a lot of fun in class. Grammar will be active and explored through readings, stories, and many authentic materials.

Why isn't Spanish like some of my other high school classes?

Spanish, like any language, is a skill. This is not a class where you can learn material for a test and then forget it. Acquiring a language is like learning how to ride a bike or learning how to swim. It's a skill you build gradually, use and remember a long time. Because in order to communicate successfully in Spanish you will need to continually know vocabulary, you may be tested over any vocabulary acquired in class at any time during the year. Sometimes this class will resemble an elementary classroom. This is desirable since we are working on *acquiring* a new language. How did you ACQUIRE your first language?

What do I need for Spanish class?

The most important thing you need this year is not something you will go out and purchase. It's participation in class – every day that class meets. You need to be in class!!! If you miss class, you miss HUGE amounts of input in the language and practice.

Sistema de calificación:	
Participation/Attendance	40%
Classwork	30%
Homework	10%
Tests/Quizzes	20%
TOTAL: 100%	

Participation

To have a great participation grade, work on the items in the positive column. If you do any of the things in the negative column, your participation grade will be lowered. Every two weeks, you will grade yourself on participation.

Positive Column

Use the Spanish language to communicate whenever possible
Bring materials for class
Pay attention/follow directions

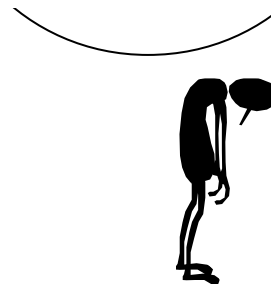
Listen when others talk
Do all the gestures
Act in the stories (and this means showing emotion!)
Contribute new ideas or vocabulary to a story
Volunteer for retells
Ask and answer questions
Help other students learn
Contribute ideas for mnemonic (memory) devices
Encourage and/or praise others
Demonstrate good sportsmanship
Put Put forth extra effort
Allow yourself to have fun and enjoy yourself in class!



Positive
Prepared
Participating
Polite

Negative Column

Not pay attention/follow directions
Write or read something for another class
Pass notes (in English)
Not bring materials to class
Do not try
Use English language to communicate (when inappropriate)
Show disrespect to others
Make negative comments and put-downs (~~HATE SPEECH~~)



(language is NEVER used as a weapon in this class)
Interrupt when someone else is talking
Be off-task
Distract others
Not practice with a partner when time is given

What if I make a mistake in class?

Mistakes when acquiring a new language are normal, natural and.... EXPECTED!!! Even students with a high degree of proficiency in the language will make many errors when speaking or writing. Remember that while laughing at your self or with others is encouraged, making fun of others will not be tolerated. Relax and have fun participating in class and your Spanish will improve quickly!

Homework

Often homework will involve reading. Sometimes you may be asked to write, draw, and occasionally even do oral homework. Turn in any homework assigned on time and completed. Late homework (passed in after the class period) will receive a score no higher than a 50. I will not accept homework that is more than 1 day late. One homework pass per semester can be used to count as a 100.



ESCRITURA

Short writings will be assigned on a given topic and/or a topic of your choice. Lengths will be specified. They need to be typed and double spaced. Homework passes cannot be used for writing assignments.

In class, you will do timed writings for 5 or 10 minutes. These will occasionally be collected.

What if I'm absent?

Exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses with two other classmates. If you happen to miss class one day you can call to find out what we did and what new words/concepts were learned. You are responsible for knowing what you missed and to get the work. The assignments and some vocab sheets will be posted online on my blog:

<http://profewilliamson.wordpress.com>

My Philosophy

I believe that ALL students can acquire a second language. I have a passion for World Languages and I will do all that I can to help you acquire Spanish. By making a commitment: showing up to every class and participating, you will make significant progress this year and receive a grade that reflects that progress. I know that this is going to be a fun and exciting year...full of laughs and success for all.



Señor WILLIAMSON
dustin.williamson@rsu52.us

IMPORTANT CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Las cuatro reglas de oro :

- 1) **Habla español** (Speak Spanish!).
- 2) **No tengas miedo** (Don't be afraid).
- 3) **Respecto.**
- 4) **Responsabilidad.**

We will be watching a few films in Spanish that are rated R for language and violence. By signing below, I give my child permission to watch these films.

Also, I give my son/daughter permission to be recorded video, audio, picture for educational purposes. I have read and understood the above information.

Parent _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____

Email _____

Student name _____

Student signature _____

Feel free to email me throughout the school year with questions, concerns, and/or problems:

dustin.williamson@rsu52.us