



SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

"Inspiring Excellence in Arts and Academics"

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Description: The language classroom is a communications course. Students learn to converse in a second language as well as develop an ability to understand and appreciate differences, and interact with others from multiple cultures. These social skills will prove useful in many settings. In our class we will strive to speak Spanish as much as possible. This technique is called the "Natural Approach" and is immersion style, learning vocabulary, creating stories and conversations with "comprehensible input" (using vocabulary that the students already know), reading and writing phrases using the vocabulary. The year will begin focused on listening and reading opportunities (receptive activities), then progress to more speaking and writing (productive activities) as students get a feel for the language. Other elements to learning Spanish in my class:

- student skits
- presentations
- answer and question periods
- artistic interpretation
- novels
- native speakers
- community events.

I aim for a student centered classroom where students will frequently assess and monitor the quality of their own work and the work of their peers against established expectations for student learning and assessment criteria. Students will collaborate on projects, engaging in higher level thinking with each other, taking risks, and encouraging each other.

Course Objectives: Students will learn Spanish in the following contexts:

- **Welcome to the New World** - Greeting, courtesy, numbers, time, colors, calendar(months and days), body parts, weather, classroom, school, needs/wants, countries, languages
- **What Are You Like?** - Family, friends, age, where they live, body parts, personality, foods, activities, likes/dislikes, descriptive adjectives (colors, size), nationalities
- **Diversity of Spanish Speaking Countries** - Geographic feature, directions, continents, seasons, climate, clothing, food, housing, arts, music, leisure, history, bartering
- **Biography** - History, era, biography, people, professions
- **Celebration and Holidays** - Tradition, holidays, customs, foods, activities, places to go, music, dance, dates, season, invitation

Creative Bulletin Boards (an activity from Concordia Language Village) Students design a classroom bulletin board. They will review and develop language forms and vocabulary of a particular unit in a more intensive way. Students will develop a deeper understanding of unit themes and language content and use their knowledge and creativity to share with other students in the class what they've learned.

Grading: Our units of study are also guided by the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) which encourages our students to become creative, critical, and reflective thinkers. The year will include summative assessments (tests, presentations, projects, and presentations), some of which will be graded on the MYP rubrics, more informal quizzes, assignments, and participation points. Students will have an opportunity to redo and resubmit to receive full credit for quizzes. The grading scale is the MPS standard grading scale:

A = 93.00 – 100%	A – = 90.00 – 92.99%			
B + = 87.00 – 89.99%	B = 83.00 – 86.99%	B – = 80.00 – 82.99%		
C + = 77.00 – 79.99%	C = 73.00 – 76.99%	C – = 70.00 – 72.99%		
D + = 67.00 – 69.99%	D = 63.00 – 66.99%	D – = 60.00 – 62.99%	F = 00.00 – 59.99%	

Participation. Participate in class discussion, answer questions, ask questions, read aloud for the class, being a team leader, participate in class games, help other students and the teacher when instructed to do so. The best chance to earn a good grade comes through participation.

Classroom process: “L-I-S-T-E-N” means to:

Look at the teacher - Inter-act, act interested - Show-me - Tune in - En Español- **No** multi-tasking.

We will learn to support each other in the learning process. We’ll be creative, take some risks and make some mistakes while we explore this new world of language and grow as people and as Spanish speakers in the world community.

Technology Use:

Phones, MP3 players, and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed during class, unless the student has express permission from the teacher. If a student misuses an electronic device, it will be confiscated and turned over to an administrator. Refer to the student handbook for more information on the Southwest Electronics Policy.

All students are expected to adhere to the Southwest High School and Minneapolis District City wide Discipline Policy and strictly observe our policies of academic honesty. Please refer to the student handbook or school website for information on our: **Student Code of Conduct** and **Academic Integrity: Plagiarism/Consequences**

Assessments (Testing)

Students will be assessed using the MYP rubric at least two times this year. Students will receive a copy of the MYP rubric in order to prepare for the assessment. The year will also include summative assessments (tests, presentations, cumulative projects), assignments, and participation points.

Attendance

A language class progresses on a daily basis. The only way to acquire a language is to be exposed to it, so attendance and participation are critical. Students are expected to arrive on time and attend class every day.

Make-up work: In the case of an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with the teacher for revised due dates.

Tardiness: You must be in your seat when the bell rings. If not, you will be marked tardy.

Materials: Bring a notebook and pen/pencil to each class. Write and keep together all notes from class in a folder, binder or notebook.