

Syllabus for Sixth Grade Spanish
Academic Year 2005-06
Teacher: Dorothy Lower, 206-252-5884
Prep Period: 9:35a.m.-10:25a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to introduce the student to foreign language learning. Instruction focuses on comprehensible Spanish. The student uses visual cues and context to figure out what is being said. Repeated hearings and practice helps the student internalize the basic vocabulary. The style of instruction tries to mimic the way toddlers learn language in the family.

Students are also exposed to the geography and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, which is increasingly important at Hamilton International Middle School and the Global Community.

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that each students stay focused on each lesson even though s/he may not be acting out the vocabulary. Spanish used in class is often highly interesting, sometimes funny. Using common sense, and interpretation of “body language” and other visual cues is the student’s task in every class. Taking risks is important; volunteering to act out vocabulary is considered an important part of participation. It is equally important to be actively paying attention when someone else is doing the action.

EXPECTED LEARNING

1. Students will be able to understand all forms of greetings in Spanish and will be able to use them.
2. Using his/her understanding of the Spanish alphabet, s/he will be able to read Spanish words and approximate the correct spelling.
3. Count to 100.
4. Know the colors.
5. Understand the concept of gender in Spanish grammar, masculine and feminine.
6. Express likes and dislikes.
7. Students will have a basic vocabulary covering many action words, body, clothing, family, locations in the neighborhood, and describing words.
8. Students will be able to change action words depending on who is doing the action (I, he/she, they).
9. Students will be exposed to common weather conditions, know the days of the week, months, seasons, and be able to tell time to the hour and half hour.
10. Recognize the basic subject pronouns, yo, tú, él, ella, ustedes.

MATERIALS

Students need their Hamilton International Middle School **Planner** each and every day. Each week s/he will record the vocabulary of the week on the appropriate pages of his/her planner. Vocabulary quizzes will be based on this vocabulary list. When absences occur it will be up to each student to catch up on recording these words. **Pencil**

is required every day. **Coloring tools** are used often. Please note: there is no 6th grade text or workbook. Each student maintains a folder that is kept in class. All vocabulary that students need to study at home will be recorded in the planner each week.

HOMEWORK-HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

Homework in Spanish will be easily accomplished. All it takes is a little routine and a little discipline. The weekly vocabulary needs to be gone over at home (or on the bus, or in the lunch line, or while brushing teeth, etc.). I recommend a minimum of three times a week for a minimum of 5 minutes each time. Easy? Easy! Do it!

Families can help by giving friendly playful quizzes or, better yet, offering to be taught the vocabulary by your student.

GRADES

Because this is a comprehension based Spanish class, participation is especially important and about 50% of the grade. So: be **actively paying attention** or **volunteer**. Once the school year is well underway, there will be weekly quizzes based on the words of the week that are recorded in the **Student Planner**. Informal grades are given periodically based on the teacher's interpretation of the student's ability to comprehend simple commands in Spanish. Responsible student behavior supports good grades. Non-cooperative behavior can negatively impact the overall grade.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

I expect students to work with me to create an atmosphere that is kind and respectful. With kindness and respect the classroom will be a safe place to risk and all students become willing to make mistakes. If students and teacher are willing to admit confusion and mistakes with good humor, others will be willing to do the same. **This is a put-down free zone.**

The rule in room 309 is

Respect self, other, education, and property.

Consequences for disrespectful behavior is

1. A reminder
2. A warning, with possible removal from the classroom
3. A referral to an administrator
4. A call home. (Note, this could happen sooner)
5. Parent/Guardian/Teacher/Administrator conference

COMMUNICATION

Please be invited to be a visitor and/or a contributor in this classroom. Call me at 206 252 5884 or email me at <djlwower@seattleschools.org>

Please email me, that way you will be added to my distribution list and will receive electronic class updates.

For updates on progress and behavior of your child beyond the semi-quarterly and quarterly progress reports, send me an email requesting an update.

CURRICULUM NIGHT is October 6, a Thursday. This is an open house.