***Spanish 1***

***Cornell High School***

Academic year 2018-2019

Teacher:           Mrs. Sarah McCutcheon          e-mail: smccutcheon@cornell.k12.wi.us

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the fundamental elements of the Spanish language within a cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will begin to explore issues related to the Hispanic world. Topics include historical and current events, geography, music, art, and customs. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and discuss selected topics and cultural differences related to the Hispanic world.

**I CAN…**

* Introduce myself in Spanish and carry on a simple conversation (weather, how you are, where you are going, etc.).
* Read simple short stories in Spanish.
* Listen to and understand verbal instructions.
* Use verbs in the present tense.

**WHY STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?**

Many universities require two or more years of language study for acceptance, and most foreign language students score higher on SAT and ACT college entrance exams.  Proficiency in a foreign language can contribute significantly to one’s understanding of other lands and cultures. Most importantly, the ability to communicate in a second language will enable you to travel to new, exciting places, meet new friends, and experience the music, art and history of another culture all while increasing your career options!

**WHY ARE YOU STUDYING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?! (circle your reasons)**

Travel                           Fun                               College Credit                         Career

College entrance requirements                       Communicate with Latinos                  Not Sure

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* One three-ring binder and loose-leaf paper or notebook
* Two folders (one to keep in class)
* Pens and pencils
* Spanish Dictionary or access to www.wordreference.com

**DAILY WORK**

Practice is necessary in order to improve in any subject or activity.  In this course you will be given some type of assignment once or twice a week in class order to develop your language skills. Usually, these assignments will not take long to complete, but you are expected to come to class every day with your assignments completed to the best of your ability.  If you are absent from class, you must show me your assignment in advance or after returning if you want credit.

**LATE/MAKE UP WORK**

I accept late homework for full credit if a student is absent.  Students will be given the number of days absent to complete their work.  Unexcused late work will be penalized with at most half credit. Any work that has obviously been copied, or where no effort is shown, will be given a zero.

It is also up to students to come and see me if he/she has missed a quiz or exam, and to make it up within three days.  After three days, it becomes a zero.

**SPEAKING**

Oral language skills are likely to be the most difficult to develop, but they are the most important skills used in communicating with others. As the year progresses, you will be expected to use more and more Spanish in class. Don't be afraid to speak up; mistakes will not count against you. The only way to improve is practice, practice, practice.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

A variety of instructional techniques will be used in order to provide students with many opportunities to learn and practice the language. These include: speaking practice, partner work, individual assignments, tests, quizzes, listening activities, writing activities, reading assignments, video activities, group projects, and impromptu and formal presentations.

**Electronic Devices: (cell phones, Ipods, etc.)**

Electronic devices and headphones are only allowed in the classroom with permission. If a student is using an electronic device during the class period without permission or it makes a sound (beeps, rings, plays music, etc.), it will be taken away by the teacher. The student will then be referred to the principal.

**TARDINESS**

According to the handbook, a student shall receive an after school detention for each tardy after the second one of each semester.   The fifth tardy will result in a parent conference and an in-school detention assigned, so… DON’T BE TARDY!

**DRESS CODE**

Shirts, jackets, hats or other apparel that advertises beer, liquor, tobacco products, illegal drugs, displaying distracting pictures or verses (sayings that may hold an inappropriate meaning) are not to be worn.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

1. **Be Respectful** … of yourself, of others, of the school/classroom environment. No teasing, touching, or inappropriate language/behavior.
2. **Be Responsible**... that means come to class on time, prepared with books, notebooks and writing utensils.
3. **Be on Task**... class participation is required and can mean the difference between a "B" and an "A"; Spanish is the "target" language - USE IT!
4. **Be Attentive**...   Follow directions the first time they are given.
5. **Be Polite**...   Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.

**PARTICIPATION**

Students have the chance to earn participation points by doing what is expected of them. Each day, students will have the ability to earn 5 points. Students will earn full participation for the day when they:

* Participate in discussions
* Are on task
* Use electronic devices appropriately
* Are respectful
* Follow class rules
* Speak and listen to classmates and teacher appropriately
* Have a positive attitude
* Speak in Spanish when appropriate

**Grading scale:**

Speaking & Participation                           25%

Homework/Classwork                                25%

Exams/Quizzes/ Projects                           50%

A (100-93) = 4.00                              C+(79-78) = 2.33                               D- (62-60) = .67

A- (92-90)= 3.67                                C (77-73) = 2.0                                   F (59-0)= 0

B+(89-88) = 3.33                               C- (72-70) = 1.67

B (87-83) =3.0                                    D+ (69-68) = 1.33

B-(82-80) = 2.67                                D (67-63)

**SUCCESS**

Each student in this class will be successful. The degree of success, however, will depend on several factors, such as:

* **Respect**- This means listening while someone else is talking, whether it is the teacher or another student.  Everyone makes mistakes while learning a foreign language, so be supportive and encourage others in a positive manner.  Each student has a different way to learn and a different rate of learning. Be patient with others and also with yourself.  Your attitude may be the most important factor in your success in this class and in school in general.
* **Come prepared –**You need to come to class prepared each day.  That means bringing your completed homework, books, binder, folder and writing utensils.  Please, be a responsible class member.
* **Keep an open mind** – Don’t expect Spanish to act like English, because it is a completely different language with its own sets of rules and patterns.  Likewise, the Spanish-speaking cultures are different than American culture, with their own customs and lifestyle.  Try not to make value judgments, but accept these differences and appreciate them with an open mind.
* **Work ethic** – You need to complete your work on time, study and prepare outside of class.  Computer translations are not allowed, and will be an automatic F on any assignment.

 Do not become discouraged and give up if something appears to be somewhat difficult. If you need help, be sure to ask for it. You are welcome to come in for help during Intervention or from 3:23 pm to 4:00 pm.  If this doesn’t work for you, please talk to me and we will work something out.

 Best wishes for a successful year☺

~Señora McCutcheon