

La clase de español

Course overview

*Keep this in your folder!

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About this class

This class is taught by optimizing immersion using the TPRS® method. Our class activities are designed to provide students with many opportunities to be involved in the Spanish language at or just above their level of understanding. Each language-building activity is designed to introduce or strengthen the understanding of high frequency words and phrases in Spanish.

1. What is TPRS?

TPRS® stands for Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. It is based on the idea that the brain needs an enormous amount of "comprehensible input" in the language. We choose the most commonly used words and phrases and use them in stories, conversations and other activities. Everything we talk about in the target language is understood by the students.

2. What does a TPRS class look like?

It sounds like a lot of Spanish! Some typical activities are:

Storytelling The teacher starts with the outline of a story and asks the class large numbers of questions that 1) ensure that the class understands the language and 2) add personalized, interesting (and sometimes very funny!) details to the story.

Story writing Students will write retells and original stories from outlines, templates, songs or partially-written stories. This may be a class, group, pair, or individual activity.

Reading We read stories created in class, stories created by other classes, summaries and stories written by the teacher, stories written by individual students, ads and articles from magazines/newspapers, and children's books.

Songs The students will be learning some new songs in Spanish this year. These songs are catchy and will help to increase

Rules for Staying in the Target Language

*Remember the acronym L.I.S.T.E.N.

Look at me

Involve yourself

Show me you get it or don't

Tune back in

Everything in the target language

No talking over me

Other General Classroom Rules

- 1.) Come to class with a POSITIVE attitude, PREPARED to learn.
- 2.) Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- 3.) Raise your hand and wait to be called upon before speaking.
- 4.) Keep your voice to an inside working level.
- 5.) Stay on task without disturbing or distracting others.
- 6.) Always put forth your best effort.
- 7.) Keep your desk and classroom clean.
- 8.) Be POLITE, PLEASANT, and RESPECTFUL at all times.

vocabulary development.

Games We have a number of games based on comprehensible input that help students to acquire language and create strong, positive relationships within the classroom environment.

Video viewing We will be watching several video clips. Some will be in Spanish, others in English. There are always activities in Spanish for each movie clip.

3. How are students graded?

Tests are given with notice and preparation. Students will be provided with study guides and/or notes. There are summative tests given at the end of each chapter and formative tests given when appropriate. Tests account for 25% of student grade.

Quizzes are given frequently to check for understanding of the content. The students may be required to demonstrate their ability to read, speak, write, or listen in Spanish. They may also be required to identify vocabulary or explain cultural/historical information. Quizzes will vary in frequency and form based on the learning standards of each class. Quizzes will account for 25% of student overall grade.

Paperwork/homework is collected on a regular basis. It may take the form of translation, answering questions, illustrations, flash cards, or story writing. Any assignments completed in class or for homework may be collected, graded and recorded. Homework may be assigned infrequently due to the nature and importance of in class work. Homework will account for 25% of the overall grade.

Participation is necessary in Spanish class and the single most important factor for student success. Students will be required to pay attention on a daily basis and should come to class ready to be active participants. Participation will account for 25% of student overall grade. This grade is determined through in-class assignments and student involvement.

4. How can parents help?

Any time you show interest in and support for your child's school work, you help. Ask your child to share the stories that we have done in class or to teach someone in the family a song! Encourage students to tell the teacher whenever there is confusion or stress about the class or the work. Be willing to listen and ask questions when students share stories with you.

Consequences

*Warning 1

*Warning 2

*Reflection form with parent signature

*Office Referral and parent contact

Materials

Pencil

Red checking pen

3 X 5 notecards

Lined paper or Spanish notebook

Folder for ONLY Spanish materials