**Parkview High School
Español 2013-2014**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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**Classroom Procedures** (A word of Explanation):

¡Bienvenido a la clase de español! You are about to embark on a journey into a new world of culture, adventure, language, and learning. This year think about the quote by Alan Alda as you learn Spanish, “Laugh at yourself, but never doubt yourself. Have the courage to explore unexpected places.” I hope that you are excited and are ready to commit to learning! As you will notice, the language of communication in class will be SPANISH. This may cause you some frustration at first, but there is an extremely important reason for doing this. I assure you, I do not want to torture you, nor am I trying to make you feel dumb. It would be easier for me to teach you in English, but, paradoxically, that would be the worst thing I could do to you, because I want you to learn Spanish. To do that, you have to learn to think in the language, both listening and speaking. It is as if you were walking along the countryside and came to a river of musky water. You must cross, there is no way around. The only solution is to lower yourself into the water and somehow float across. For a while you may not be totally under control, but eventually you will get to the other side. Your tendency will be to hang on to the willows on the far bank (your English) and not let go, but if you do that you will never get across. To cross that river is absolutely necessary if you want to learn to communicate in Spanish. Very faithfully following the classroom procedures listed below will make your take much easier.

1. **Listen carefully to what is said, trying to understand.** At first you will not understand all (any) of what I say. I know that. I do not expect you to. But, do not tune me out; do not panic. Stand your ground, grit your teeth, and try to catch the gist of what I am saying. Watch for gestures, facial expressions, words that are similar in English, and other clues. While you will have to tolerate a little vagueness at first, a successful language learner is a good guesser; use your imagination.
2. **Communicate as best you can in Spanish.** At first, it will be just a few words, imperfectly uttered, but for a while you will have to return to the level of a young child. Try to accept that. If you are learning to play the piano as an adult, you would not start with a concerto; you would start with simple little pieces. As soon as possible I will give you the tools to communicate with. Some expressions will be displayed around the room; you will have your “COPING CARD” and should use the words and phrases on it as often as you can; and I will conduct a number of activities which will help you practice using these tools until they become second nature.
3. **Try not to feel pressure or anxiety.** Do not have unrealistic expectations, such as speaking at your English level in a few weeks. Grades will be based on your performance, but I view this as a process of “perfecting” not “perfection.” I will give you ample time to prepare for tests and quizzes, and will help you get ready for them. Accept correction and suggestions with good humor. Take the attitude that “I am going to have to make a million mistakes before I learn Spanish, so I might as well get started.” I will try to correct with tact and gentleness. As someone once said, “He, who is not corrected, remains uncorrected still.” Do not be alarmed if others in the class seem to understand more or seem to be going faster than you are. It will just seem that way. Or it may be that some have studied Spanish before and naturally will have an advantage. Others may have more ability to learn a foreign language easily and quickly (aptitude). But these same differences exist in music, art, athletic skills, public speaking, etc. Adjust and accept the differences, rather than getting down on yourself. Evaluate your individual progress in terms of your own growth, not by the apparent progress of others. If you want to quicken the pace, simply spend more time studying and using the language.
4. **Learn with and from others.** Language is best learned with someone else. Find a partner from the class and practice before or after class or on the phone. As you learn new ways to say things, try them out on friends who speak Spanish. Listen to what others say and get ideas from them. If you cannot find another person to practice with, practice with yourself. Daydream, make up little plots and conversations in your head, and practice what you would say in different situations.
5. **Ask for help or clarification if you need it.** Do not assume that you are the only one who does not understand something. Do not hesitate to say *“No entiendo”* (I do not understand) or *“Otra vez, por favor”* (Again, please) or *“¿Qué quiere decir \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”* (What does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mean?) I will be happy to try to explain in some other way. I will not usually respond to questions in English, but I can often anticipate what you want to say and can help you state your question in Spanish.
6. **Prepare yourself outside of class.** The grammar explanations are quite clear in the documents I will give you and you can use your textbook as a resource. I expect you to read the material I assign prior to coming to class and to have practiced the assignment.
7. **Be spontaneous and uninhibited.** Learning Spanish can be fascinating and fun. Laugh at/with me, at/with others, and at/with yourself. I may even “clown” a bit. Feel free to laugh. Add enjoyment to the satisfaction you will receive as you gain fluency in the language.
8. **Think positively.** Everything I do or say has a positive interpretation—never negative. Please reciprocate by being positive at all times. I maintain an “open door” policy. I will help you do *your best*. We are on the same team.

**Goals and Objectives:** Among the various goals and objectives for this class, students will find that they are able to…

1. …read in Spanish (fiction and nonfiction)
2. …write in Spanish about many different topics and in different verb tenses
3. …pronounce the sounds and words of Spanish
4. …learn and practice Spanish grammar rules
5. …converse in Spanish about many different topics and in different verb tenses
6. …learn to use different reading strategies for different types of readings
7. …increase comprehension and ability to express oneself in Spanish
8. …develop a knowledge of and a love for Spanish cultures around the world

**Come prepared.** Come to class each day ready to learn. This means you should have all of your materials: writing utensil, notebook (you need to purchase a notebook for class), class binder, assignments, textbook, and all handouts from the semester/year. While we have a textbook for Spanish, there will be many supplemental handouts as well, please keep all handouts as an addition to your textbook. Study the handouts and notes. When the bell rings you are expected to be in your seat. If you are out of your seat, you may be marked absent or tardy. I will not allow you to leave the classroom to use the restroom or to get a drink, do so before coming to class. Only in an extreme emergency will you be given a pass to leave class.

**Technology:** Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to use the school issued iPad or your own technology devices in class; however, they should be used only as part of the lesson when I ask you to use them. Using your device at other times in class is grounds for the removal of your device, as is using your device in ways you were not told to during activities requiring technology (texting, making calls, or other activities that break the Acceptable Use Agreement for Student use of Personal Technology Devices on School Grounds outlined by the District). The first offense will result in the removal of your device for the remainder of the class period. The second offense will result in the removal of your device for the remainder of the school day, and student will make a phone call on the classroom phone after school to their parent or guardian to notify them of the offense. Third offense will result in the removal of the device, a referral, and the parent will have to come to school to pick up the device.

We will be using eBackpack throughout the year for assignments and class participation. We will also be using Edmodo, Linguafolio Online, and Quizlet. You will be responsible for checking my website (<http://kstenlund.weebly.com/>) frequently for up-to-date information on lesson plans and useful resources and links.

**Grades:** The grading scale for Spanish is that used by PHS. It can be found here as well as in your student handbook.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 95 - 100 % | C | 77 - 79 % |
| A- | 92 - 94 % | C- | 74 - 76% |
| B+ | 89 - 91 % | D+ | 71 - 73 % |
| B | 86 - 88 % | D | 68 - 70 % |
| B- | 83 - 85 % | D- | 65 - 67 % |
| C+ | 80 - 82 % | F | 0 - 64% |

Your grade in Spanish will be based on several different things: class participation, daily assignments, project, quizzes and tests.

1. **Class participation:** In order to learn Spanish, you must practice orally. Initially you will be pretty bad at it, but you will improve as you practice! Your mouth needs to learn to make new sounds. Be prepared to make mistakes and to learn from them. As the year progresses, you will be expected to use more and more Spanish. Speak without fear; mistakes will not count against you. The only way to improve is to practice! Your class participation grade will be based on speaking in class with a partner or group when asked to do so (as I walk around I should hear only Spanish), repeating vocabulary and other phrases, various oral presentations and activities, and a daily practice activity in your notebook.
2. **Daily assignments:** Practiceis necessary to improve in any subject or activity—Spanish is no different. You will have some type of homework or assessment each day in order to develop your language skills. Most assignments will not be time consuming, but they will be a part of your grade; therefore, you need to complete them! Assignments will typically be graded based on completion—if you are not completely done with the assignment, you will receive a zero. If you are absent, show me your completed assignment in order to receive credit—it will be a zero until you turn it in to me. You have one day to turn in a missed assignment.
3. **Projects:** Throughout the year projects will be assigned that allow you to incorporate your learning in class and outside sources of information. Projects will be assessed using a rubric that is passed out to students when the project is assigned. You will be assigned at least one project per quarter.
4. **Quizzes and Tests:** There will be daily vocabulary assessments, many vocabulary quizzes, regular unit tests, and a final exam at the end of each semester. If you keep up with the daily work, participate in class, and spend time each day reviewing Spanish, the tests should be easy for you. If you are absent the day of a quiz or a test, you are expected to make it up the day you return unless it was a prolonged absence. If you are going to be gone for a school event (i.e. sports), you need to make arrangements for make-up prior to being gone. Make-up tests and quizzes will be taken outside of class time—you need to take them before or after school; you have already missed my class, you will not miss more learning in order to finish something that you missed! All students will be required to take the final exam both semesters.
5. **Extra Credit:** Extra credit will be offered each test or quiz – there will be an extra question or two that will be worth one to five points of extra credit on the quiz or test. There may also be other opportunities for extra credit that will be determined and announced by the teacher. In order to be eligible for the additional extra credit opportunities, all work must be submitted to the teacher.
6. **Late Work and Absence from Class:** If you are gone from class, you are responsible to get the work that you missed. To find out what you missed in class, please see me before or after class – approaching me as I am about to start class is not the time to ask what you missed. If you are absent on the day of a test, quiz, or presentation, you will be expected to schedule a make-up day for the test, quiz, or presentation the day you return that is within three days of your return to class. Tests and quizzes that you miss will be made up outside of class time, either before or after school or during a study hall. Other work that you missed while absent will be accepted for full credit as long as it is turned in within two days of the absence. Late work will be accepted for partial points, unless otherwise stated. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date for 70% credit. Work that is more than one week late will be accepted for 50% credit. Being gone from school is detrimental to your learning, especially in Spanish because you miss so much of what is done in class and it is difficult to replicate the communication and interaction that happens in class. Please make your best effort to be in school each day.
7. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** If I suspect that you are cheating or discover that you are cheating on something for my class or any class, I will take whatever you are working on, and give you a zero for the assignment, test, or quiz. You will also receive a disciplinary referral and your parents will be notified.
8. **Reassessment Policy:** If you receive a grade that you are not happy with on a test or a quiz, you may submit a Spanish Reassessment Guide. Once you submit the Spanish Reassessment Guide and complete all of the required work, you may retake a test or a quiz. You must schedule the retake outside of class with the teacher three days after the original assessment was returned. Projects and in-class participation may not be reassessed.

**Behavioral Consequences:** Should the need arise for disciplinary action based on student behavior in class, there will be consequences for the student. The consequences for inappropriate behavior will be as follows:

* **First offense:** The student will receive a warning or be written up and given a detention. A parent may be notified.
* **Second offense:** The student will receive a referral and a detention. The teacher will call home to notify the parent(s).
* **Third offense:** The punishment will be determined by the teacher and principal. There may be a conference involving student, teacher, principal and a parent.

When a student receives a detention, they have 3 days to serve it. Day 1 is the day the detention was received. If detentions are not served on time they will be changed to a 45 minute detention. The teacher reserves the right to skip any disciplinary step and/or add to steps based on the severity of the incident.

**Final note:** Respect and tolerance are very important to me. All human beings deserve respect. We will be learning about new cultures and traditions in this class – things may seem strange to you because they are different, try not to discount them. There will be times that you disagree with something that is expressed by one of your peers or me; you are entitled to express your views in a way that shows respect for the other person. I will respect you as long as you respect me. I will treat you as an adult as long as you demonstrate to me that you deserve to be treated as such. I will be a leader and your teacher, please treat me as one – if you would not ask one of your other teachers a certain question, do not ask it of me. I will make mistakes because, like you, I am human.

In our class we will have many discussions. The words you choose to express your thoughts and feelings are important. Think before you speak – if what you are about to say is derogatory or offensive to an individual or group of people, use a different word. Words I find particularly offensive when used in a derogatory manner are gay and retarded. Refrain from using them; there are many adjectives that you can use to express your thoughts or feelings toward something that are much more descriptive.

Be well behaved and respectful when we have guest speakers or a substitute teacher. If your name appears on the report that the teacher leaves for me, I will be disappointed in you and I will notify your parents and the office of your actions, and will assign a consequence based on the gravity of the offence (i.e. detention or in-school suspension).

You are in school to learn. Apply yourself and try to learn as much as possible from the teachers you have. While it may not seem like it all the time, your teachers are very knowledgeable people in their subject areas and in life. We have a wide range of experiences that we will share with you, especially if we aren’t constantly trying to maintain order in our classrooms. We like to have fun just about as much as you do. We will have lots of fun in Spanish if we are able to, meaning that if you respect me and the classroom, and demonstrate to me that you are able to do interactive activities that involve movement and competition, we will.

If at any point you do not understand a concept or you feel like you are getting behind in class, please ask a question in class, contact me by coming to see me before or after school, or send me an e-mail. Do not wait until the end of the semester or until the day of a test to tell me of your struggles because by that point it may be too late to help.

Let’s have an awesome year together! Let’s learn from one another and have lots of fun speaking, reading, writing, and interacting in Spanish!

Con cariño,

Profesora Kathy Stenlund

 (For your first Spanish assignment worth five points, please detach and return to Profesora Stenlund by Friday, September 6, 2013)

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**SPANISH CLASSROOM SYLLABUS AND POLICY UNDERSTANDING**

Spanish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have received and read a copy of the Course Syllabus for Español 2013-2014, and have had an opportunity to ask for clarification regarding any items I did not understand, and now understand the items discussed in the document. I am aware that the syllabus and other class information can be found online at <http://kstenlund.weebly.com/>, and is subject to change.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_