 Spanish I SYLLABUS

Academic year: 2013-2014

Teacher: Señor John Fitzer

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**CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

Spanish I is designed to be an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students will be expected to perform the most basic functions of the language and become familiar with some elements of its culture. The emphasis of the instruction will be based on the development of the four skills of speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Students will be expected to use the language in all of these capacities.

A general introduction to the culture of Spanish speakers will also be integrated into the course. We will cover the perspectives (e.g. attitudes, beliefs, and values), products (e.g. literature, laws, foods, games), and common practices (e.g. patterns of social interaction) of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will inquire insight into how languages and culture function by comparing the Spanish language and culture(s) to their own.

**LAS REGLAS DE LA CLASE/RULES OF THE CLASSROOM:**

1. **Students are expected to come to class ready to learn**. I enter the classroom on time and ready to learn. I am prepared with the necessary materials for class. I am focused and ready to do my best work.
2. **Respectful speech and attitude:** I speak to my teacher and classmates in a respectful and caring way. I encourage others and help them to become successful.
3. **Quality of my work:** My work reflects my **own** best effort and is turned in consistently and on time. I often review my work and ask myself how I can improve it. (This means that simply completing your work is not adequate. I expect you to put forth your best effort on every assignment.)

**MATERIALS:**

We will be using the textbook ***Realidades I.***When will be using the textbook, students will have access to one in the classroom.

Students will need to bring a notebook, folder (specifically for Spanish), and a writing utensil with them to class every day. I would **strongly** suggest purchasing a Spanish – English dictionary. This will be a very helpful resource when completing in class work as well as homework. The *Larousse Spanish Dictionary* is a great option. It is an especially good investment if you are planning on continuing with Spanish throughout high school.

**HOMEWORK:**

Daily/weekly homework assignments will be given based on what we are doing in class and how students use their time in class. When homework is assigned it can be assumed that it will be checked the next day in the **beginning** of the period unless told otherwise. No homework will be accepted after this time. Be prepared for random homework checks, where I will be collecting homework and grading it for completion and accuracy.

**LATE WORK:**

Students are expected to hand in all **completed** work on the assigned due date. If you turn in work after the due date you will get half credit for the assignment. Excused absences and other legitimate excuses are not included in this policy.

**ABSENCES:**

If you are absent, please check with me or a classmate to see what you missed. You will have the number of days you were absent to make up the work. (For example, if you miss one day, you have one day to complete the homework.) If you missed a test or quiz, please come see me as soon as possible to find an appropriate time to make it up. If you need help completing the assignments, come see me to make an appointment before/after school to get the help you need.

**PARTICIPATION:**

Active participation is EXTREMELY important in a language class! Students cannot expect to be an engaged language learner without participating and trying. Because participation is crucial in a Spanish class, it will contribute to the overall grade. It is important to know that I do not expect students to be perfect. My only expectation is that they put forth the effort to speak, read, write, and listen in Spanish while they are in Spanish class. (Outside of class is always wonderful too! ☺ )

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Delano Public Schools has an academic honesty policy that will be followed. I will not tolerate any form of cheating or plagiarism. Student behavior involving any form of cheating will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, no make-up opportunity, and a call home to a parent/guardian.

Students will be graded in a variety of areas. These are some of the areas that students will be graded on:

* Quizzes (20%)
* Homework, Projects, Assignments (30%)
* Exams (40%)
* Active participation (10%)

**GRADING SCALE AND POLICY:**

A    = 95                     C- = 70

            A-   = 90                    D+ = 67

            B+ = 87                     D   = 63

            B    = 83                     D- = 60

            B-   = 80                    F    = 59

            C+ = 77

            C   = 73

**MAJOR TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS**

All major tests, assignments, and projects will be posted on Skyward at least a week prior to the due date. Dates are subject to change depending on class circumstances.

MAJOR TESTS

* Gustar
* Conjugating regular verbs
* Ser and Estar
* Ir
* Clothing
* Conjugating irregular stem-changing verbs
* Semester final written exam
* Semester final oral exam

MAJOR PROJECTS

* Spanish speaking countries presentation
* Fashion show

**CELL PHONES/IPODS/OTHER DEVICES:**

Once class has begun, NO cell phones, iPods, etc. will be allowed, unless they are needed for an activity. If I see it, it is mine until the end of class. If there is a time in class where you can be listening to music, I will let you know. Otherwise you can assume that they should be put away.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION/INVOLVEMENT:**

Parents/guardians should feel free to contact me at any time by email or by phone, with any question about how their student is doing in class.

It is my hope that we will have a great semester together! If you have any questions, concerns, or comments at any time throughout the semester, please do not hesitate to see me.

Please read through this with your parents/guardians and return this page to me by **Friday, September 6th.**

I have read the course syllabus and classroom policy regarding Spanish I taught by Ms. Katie Beshears.

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Student printed name Student signature Date

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Parent(s)/Guardian(s) printed name Parent(s)/Guardian(s)signature Date