

Emily Jacobs

Mt. Everest Academy 2016-2017

858-627-7453 ejacobs@sandi.net

Days on campus: All Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays; most Mondays, & turn-in Friday.

Study group: Room 8



Español 1/2

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Hola y bienvenidos a la clase de español 1/2. Hello, and welcome to the Spanish class! In today's global community, knowing a foreign language is a necessity, not a luxury. It is also a high school graduation requirement. Foreign language study promotes understanding, tolerance, and respect for the cultural identities and values of others. One's own language can be even more appreciated and understood when compared and contrasted to another language. A wider range of career opportunities is available to those who know another language and culture. Study of a foreign language provides critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Ultimately, learning a second language helps students prepare for life in a world of cultural and linguistic diversity in the twenty-first century.

Spanish 1/2 is a college preparatory, rigorous, and enriching course with a high-school curriculum. Textbooks, workbooks, TPR (total physical response), audio sources, videos, music, games, Rosetta Stone, and skits are all part of instruction. In adherence to the SD Unified School District World Language Instructional Guide, this course addresses the five proficiencies: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture in the context of the five "C's" of World Language education: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

Learning a second language requires practice, perseverance, organization, and a true commitment to learning. As your teacher, I am committed to the learning process and to being one of your partners in education. As a community of learners, we will set high expectations, work hard, have fun and learn a lot!

The following information is the "instructional manual" for this course. Reading, understanding, and adhering to it will help you to be successful in this course.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

We will maintain a positive and respectful classroom environment that promotes learning and consideration for one another at all times. You are responsible for the behavior of only one person - yourself. Your conduct and the choices you make will demonstrate the importance you place on the opportunity to be educated. In this class, you will:

1. Raise your hand to speak (and if possible, ask questions in Spanish).
2. Take risks! Learning a new language requires courage and a sense of humor.
3. Turn off or mute all cell phones during study group. (Any cell phone found to be on or in use without my permission will be confiscated until the end of class on the first offense, and until a parent comes on a second offense.)
4. Clean up work area before leaving class.
5. Always be kind, courteous, and respectful to everyone in the class.

CLASS PREPAREDNESS

Organization is essential to success in this course. Please bring the following materials to *every* study group:

1. Textbook and workbook (*Cuaderno*). (I may help you complete or correct assignments.)
2. A three-ringed binder in which to place all Independent Work, Study Group handouts, Vocabulary Flashcards (strongly encouraged), and returned quizzes and tests.
3. Three-hole lined paper.
4. Pencils, erasers and pens.
5. Vocabulary Flashcards (use a pouch, zip-lock bag, or large key ring to hold the cards together.)
6. Arrive ON TIME so as not to disrupt the learning environment. Please try to use the restroom before class, since our time is so limited.

THREE-RING BINDER

Prepare a binder as detailed below. If you don't spend some time outside of class at least five days a week, you will have great difficulty in this class.

Divide your binder into the following sections:

1. Independent work and study group work to go in monthly packet, & cover sheet
2. Exams and quizzes
3. Vocabulary flashcards - It can be very helpful to make flashcards with pictures on one side, and the Spanish term on the other, to use for quick review frequently, such as while waiting in a line, etc.
4. This course description

MONTHLY WORK PACKETS (30%)

1. Use the cover sheet provided on my teacher page at the beginning of each school month. You may find this at meaworldlanguages.weebly.com then click on this course.
2. Plan ahead to complete all work by school month due date. You can find these dates either on your contracts or on the school website. Some school months are only about three weeks long. You will need to dedicate time **every school day** in order to be successful in this class.
3. Put a detailed heading on each page of each assignment as follows: Your full name, level of Spanish, page and activity (unless it's part of a workbook), and **date the assignment was done**.
4. Keep the assignments in the order in which they are listed on the monthly cover sheet.
5. **Make a copy (both sides) of one page for the Audit File, and put that copy into the packet so you can get credit for doing that work.** Keep the original Audit File Sample separate. You may paperclip all the originals together to facilitate paperwork for your supervising teacher.

Take your monthly work to your Supervising Teacher to assess for attendance, and to submit the Audit File Sample, NO LATER THAN 3:00 on the Friday monthly due date.

Late work will receive half credit. Then bring the packet to me in room 8 for academic evaluation.

ATTENDANCE AT STUDY GROUPS

Although we will not have time during study groups to cover all of the material in a month's work, weekly attendance is critical in this class. If you are chronically late or absent, you will have a difficult time being successful, for you will miss the opportunity to practice what you have been studying, quizzes, and any handouts. If you are absent due to an emergency or travel, please notify me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to set up a time to make up any missed quiz. Any quizzes not made up by the last day of that school month will receive scores of zero.

EXAMS (40%)& QUIZZES (25%)

Assessments provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Listening and/or written quizzes will be given each week. You may retake each quiz once, and the new grade will be averaged with the old one.

Most exams are worth 100 points, and will be given at the end of each month in room 8 during the regular class time. The Midterm and the Final semester exams will each be worth 200 points. Re-takes on exams will not be offered, so study well before

taking the exam. Be sure to retake any quizzes necessary BEFORE the monthly test, in order to master all material for the month. Scores on exams taken late (unless prior permission is obtained, or a note from the parent indicates the student was ill) will go down by 10% per school day late.

One to two district Benchmarks will be given each semester. Speaking ability will be assessed during these presentations.

PACING YOURSELF

Because learning a second language is not a discipline that can be crammed into 2-3 hours/week the night before class, I strongly encourage you to spread out your independent work **over at least five days per week**. In order to be successful in the study of a language, you should work at least 30 minutes on at least five of the seven days of the week. This should be active studying, so watching a movie, or listening to the radio, although good activities to do for passive understanding, do not fall under the category of active studying.

Last year, for extra credit, I gave out templates of a log for students to record the amount of time studying Spanish, broken down into the various activities, such as the workbook, which is called *Cuaderno*, listening exercises, textbook assignments, speaking Spanish with a native speaker, or practicing speaking in front of a mirror, listening to Spanish on the radio, or TV, etc. However, I have found that the students who filled out the log as intended, didn't really need to, since they already were spending time at least five days a week on Spanish, and those who really needed to spend more days on Spanish weren't filling out the log at all, or they were filling it out after the fact, which is not usually very accurate, so is not very useful.

So this year, I will try asking just 7th graders fill out a log on a daily basis, since the transition from 6th grade to 7th grade is a challenging one. In addition, this is a high school course, with pacing geared to high school students. The 7th grade students earning a C or better by the first progress report will no longer be required to fill out the logs. However, if the student is struggling, he or she must continue with the logs. They are to be filled out **by the student, not the parent, and done on a daily basis**, and turned in weekly at class. This should simply become part of the daily work on the study of Spanish, completed right after whatever studying has been done that day, in order to show the detail accurately.

A parent/guardian signature will be required on each weekly log.

EXTRA CREDIT

NO extra-credit will be offered. If you give some time to your study of your second language each day, at least 30 minutes, but preferably an hour, and complete all assignments on time according to the monthly cover sheet, you will be prepared for the quizzes and tests, and will be able to earn a high grade without extra credit. Remember, you may always retake a quiz any time before the monthly test.

BENCHMARKS (5%)

The district has developed Benchmarks to assess speaking ability of students over the course of the year. These assignments will be explained in class and on the cover sheet for the months when they are due. Some of these will be done in groups of 2-3, and assessed according to a rubric. Some will be done individually. You will be applying specific vocabulary recently studied to original situations.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & INTEGRITY

Honesty is often defined as truthfulness, trustworthiness, and integrity - values that lie at the core of the educational process. Honesty is an essential component to creating a productive classroom atmosphere for students, in maintaining community trust, and in preserving the dynamics of student-teacher interaction. It is important to remember also that college and career applications ask schoolteachers, counselors, and administrators to comment on a student's trustworthiness and integrity. It is our goal at Mt. Everest to create an atmosphere of academic excellence through one's achievement and pride of accomplishment.

If you participate in academic dishonesty (refer to the Mt. Everest Academic Honesty Policy) - cheating on tests or assignments, test avoidance, plagiarism, or theft or alteration of materials, the following consequences will apply:

1. You will receive a zero on the quiz, exam, or assignment.
2. A referral will be written and parents will be notified. The referral goes into your cumulative record.
3. Your citizenship grade will automatically be lowered to a "U" for Unsatisfactory.
4. A parent/student/teacher conference will be held.

PRIDE IN WORK

Please demonstrate care and pride in all your work by writing neatly and legibly. You will not receive full credit for work that is incomplete, ignores instructions, is messy or difficult to read, or lacking the proper heading:

1. First and last names.
2. Date the assignment was completed.
3. Level of Spanish (1,2)
4. Identification of assignment (if not a workbook page).

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Help your child set up a schedule for spending daily time on the study of Spanish.
2. Monitor your child's daily studying, and help him/her to complete a log on a daily basis.
3. Have your child watch, or watch with your child, Spanish-speaking TV programs to listen to the rhythm of the language- there will be many words you understand.
4. Listen with your child, or help your child to find Spanish radio - it will help train the ear to the flow of the language and the modern, popular forms of speech and expression. A few local FM stations are: 98.9, 99.7, 102.9, 104.5, 106.5 & 107.7.
5. Search the internet for Spanish language websites that you and/or your child can enjoy and find useful. Two that I recommend are: 1) www.studyspanish.com & 2) <http://www.eslconnect.com/spanish/spanish.html>.
6. Use stick-it-notes, label household items in Spanish.
7. Encourage your child to make flash cards with pictures on one side, and the Spanish term on the other.
8. Encourage your child to practice speaking to you in Spanish, even if you can't understand. Have him/her teach you some words and expressions. Show an interest in his/her success.
9. Do Rosetta Stone, Spanish (Latin America) Level 1, offered free through the San Diego Public Library.