

Bienvenidos a Español I

Welcome to Spanish I!

Señora Rebecca Hubbard

Room 17

Frankfort Junior/Senior High School

Course Preview

¡Bienvenidos al Año 2010-2011! This will be a fun-filled year of learning a new language and becoming more aware of Hispanic culture. You will learn to communicate basic information in class with partners or small groups, find out about their likes and dislikes, and discover and experience how Hispanic cultures live and socialize. While the main goal is the acquisition of the Spanish language, it should be understood that culture and language go hand-in-hand. During the year you can expect to be involved in various activities in addition to academic work such as cooking, skits, cultural arts and crafts, and group projects and presentations.

The Michigan Department of Education provides Standards and Benchmarks for you to achieve in each of your classes. As part of its principles of Language Acquisition, it wants educators and learners to understand that:

- Language is functional.
- Language skills develop interdependently.
- Language learning is cultural learning.
- Language proficiency develops through meaningful use and interaction.
- Language acquisition is a long-term process and occurs at different rates.
- Language proficiency develops in varied ways.

The Proficiency Guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) describe language proficiency in terms of five levels: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Superior and Distinguished. At the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, proficiency is further defined as low, mid, or high. The MDE expectation of students who have met the minimum two-credit graduation requirement is to achieve Novice High Level. Parents and students who wish to know more can visit the website of the Michigan Department of Education or, of course, just ask Mrs. Hubbard.

Rights and Responsibilities

In Room 17, you have the right to feel safe, to be heard, and to learn to the very best of your ability. You are expected to respect these rights for others as well. Most expectations and policies in this room are summarized by one rule:

*Show respect to yourself, to other students,
to visitors, to your teacher and to your school.*

Some specific details to keep in mind include the following:

For each unit of study, Mrs. Hubbard will give you a list of the things you need to be prepared for class. There are many ways to get help in this class. Please ask and keep asking until you are satisfied and feeling confident.

Mrs. Hubbard follows handbook policies. If you have a question about a rule or a policy, you can ask Mrs. Hubbard or you can check your handbook.

Please review the attendance policy and the tardy policy in your handbook. Mrs. Hubbard follows these policies. Please see the notes below on make-up work and absences.

Please review the student ethics policy in your handbook. Mrs. Hubbard expects the best of you and you should expect the best of yourself.

Grading

The grade you receive in this course is a direct reflection of daily work, test scores, and participation. All grades are based on points earned for work completed, daily grades, and test scores. Test points are worth twice the amount of points for daily work. The grade is assigned using the uniform grading scale found in your planner.

If you ever have a question or concern about your grade, please speak to Mrs. Hubbard about it immediately and bear in mind her philosophies about grading. Her goal is to help you succeed. She wants you to get a good grade. If your grade is not what you would like it to be, **please talk to her about it.**

Make-up Work/Absences

Work that is missing or late for reasons unrelated to absence is not accepted. After the designated deadline, work is considered late and receives no credit.

The student is always responsible to seek out work missed due to absence. A make-up work folder hanging in the classroom contains information about work covered in class each day. You are expected to seek out this information upon your return. **If you cannot find work for the day you were absent or if you have questions, please ask Mrs. Hubbard for help.** Make-up work that is not completed according to the handbook policy is treated like any other missing or late assignment and receives no credit.

All tests and quizzes must be made up outside of regular class time and in timely fashion.

Please note that tests, quizzes and make-up work will not be accepted weeks after an absence. Please do not ask for privileges that other students do not receive.

How You Can Help

Learning a new language is both fun and rewarding, but it requires a lot of practice. The time we spend in class is not enough. Every student should spend at least 15-30 minutes each night reviewing that day's lesson or vocabulary. Family members can quiz the student with flash cards or by "testing" them on vocabulary words or phrases. It is beneficial to listen to Spanish TV programs or check out Spanish language newspapers, available at Borders or similar larger booksellers. Sirius satellite radio offers numerous radio stations with Spanish news, entertainment and music programs. Numerous TV channels exist as well and movies in Spanish are easily available. The Internet is another great source and we will be using some wonderful websites extensively this year. Try reading some nursery rhymes or fairy tales that have been translated to Spanish. Try watching some "telenovelas" or Mexican soap operas. You already know what they are about! Hanging around any Spanish speaking peers is also very helpful. You will really experience the language first-hand and most often, they are willing to help you with your questions.

The most important tips are simple. They are so simple that students often overlook them. As we look at them now, make a point to think about how you can apply this advice to your daily life:

- Be positive.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Don't leave your homework/studying for tests and quizzes until the night before class.
- Stay healthy.
- Be patient with yourself.

I have read and discussed the rules, rights, and policies for Mrs. Hubbard's class. I understand the rules and I agree to follow them.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Parents and students: Please cut and save the following contact information.

To contact Mrs. Hubbard at school, please call 352-4781, extension 215.
Voice mail messaging is available 24 hours. Simply leave a message at extension 215 and I will return your call at the earliest opportunity.

You can also contact me by email at rhubbard@frankfort.tbaisd.k12.mi.us

Please limit calls to my home to immediate class-related questions and concerns for the next day. I welcome calls that will help you get your work done on time and students often call. If you are unsure about an assignment for the next day, or if you have a question/concern about that assignment, *please do not hesitate to call* before 9:00 p.m. Issues extending beyond these needs should be addressed at school. Thank you for your understanding.