**¡Bienvenido a la clase de Español I!**

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Textbook website: <http://www.vocesetextbooks.com/>

Spanish 1 is an introductory, yet intensive course to help get you on your way to becoming proficient in Spanish by the time May of senior year rolls around. You will be learning a wide range of vocabulary, grammar, and culture through an e-textbook and classroom interactions. Your learning will take place inside and outside of the classroom. It is very important to build a strong foundation for the future. With your cooperation, I believe I will be able to facilitate your learning of Spanish to the next level and get you well on your way to proficiency.

***Spanish 1 is an introductory, yet intensive course …*** Don’t let the introductory part or the 1 in Spanish 1 fool you! This class is not just basic Spanish: we will get into areas that aren’t taught in many schools until the 3rd or 4th year. We’ll learn more vocabulary this year than most schools do in two years, maybe more. This should challenge you, but it probably isn’t as difficult as it may sound. It is exciting to know that you won’t be spending (wasting) the year on just learning numbers, colors, and days of the week.

***… by the time May of your senior year rolls around.*** In May of your senior year, you will be taking your IB exams and 75% of your IB Spanish grade will be determined. There is an oral individual exam in March of senior year as well, but the May exams are the most difficult for the majority of students.

***… wide range of vocabulary, grammar, and culture…*** Yes, some topics include the aforementioned numbers, colors, and days of the week. We will also delve into technology, environment, and travel just to name a few. We will also learn about expressing yourself in various tenses (present, past, future). We will learn about these topics while learning about Spanish speaking cultures.

***… through an e-textbook and classroom interactions.*** Voces etextbooks is an interactive and online textbook that we use for Spanish Levels 1 and 2. It is an amazing resource! You will find vocabulary presentations, grammar explanations, cultural topics, workbook activities, conversations, videos, and more in one location.

***… inside and outside of the classroom.*** We will spend 90 minutes every other school day from now until June. This gives us a lot of time to practice in the classroom, but it really isn’t *enough* time to get to the level you need be at for Spanish 2. It is vital that you study and practice at home in between classes so that you are able to get the most out of each class. The online textbook allows for you to do a lot of independent learning at home. This gives us a lot more time in class for questions and interactions.

***… build a strong foundation …*** I hear a lot of feedback from students (usually after they graduate) relating to early Spanish levels. They often say that they wish they paid better attention in Spanish 1 & 2 because the material never goes away. We will learn early on how to conjugate the verb ser in Spanish 1. You will use the verb ser and its different present tense forms several times. It doesn’t go away because we moved on to the next chapter. It’s hard to solve for x when you don’t know how to add, subtract, multiply, or divide. It’s hard to sound proficient in Spanish when you’re using advanced vocabulary with the wrong verb forms.

***With your cooperation …*** Listen and be involved in class, do your homework, study, and demonstrate all of the IB learner profile traits.

***… I will be able to facilitate your learning...*** I will offer you ways to learn, I will manage the classroom to support your learning, and I will be an expert in the room for you. However, you will be the most influential in your own learning. It is up to you keep up with class, stay engaged in class, and take advantage of other learning opportunities.

***… get you well on your way to proficiency.***  By the end of the year, your goals should not only include being ready for Spanish 2, but also to have some basic to intermediate skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and conversation.

***Materials***

You will be using an online textbook (Voces Novice). You will be assigned a username and password to be able to access the book from your desktop, laptop, tablet, smart phone (via internet). I recommend that all students have a binder or folder for keeping track of vocabulary lists, grammar notes, homework and other handouts. Students should use a dictionary (I recommend Spanish Dict, available online and as a free app) to help with vocabulary. **Google Translate is not allowed!** Students are also encouraged to make flashcards, either on notecards or in a free app like Quizlet.

***Grades***

Grades will be entered into the following weighted categories:

*Language Production (30%)* - All writing assignments, including, but not limited to, journals, essays, short answers, and the written portion of any quiz or test will make up this portion of the grade. Essays and other longer written works will be graded using a rubric that are based on the IB rubrics, and includes task completion, comprehensibility, level of discourse, mechanics, vocabulary use, language control, and grammar use. Late assignments will receive a letter grade deduction for each day late. This category also includes any speaking tasks completed throughout the course, including, but not limited to, skits, individual presentations, partner or group presentations, and videos. Speaking activities will be graded using a rubric modeled after the IB speaking rubric, and includes task completion, comprehensibility, fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary use, language control, and grammar use.

*Receptive Skills (30%)* - Receptive skills include listening comprehension and reading comprehension. Any listening or reading comprehension activities done throughout the class will be entered into this category. The listening and reading sections of all quizzes and tests will also be included in this category.

*Participation (25%) -* Speaking is an essential element of a language class, and all students are expected to participate in class every day. This includes speaking during large group discussions or conversations as well as any partner or small group speaking activities. It is expected that all students will be using Spanish during in-class activities, and the use of English will result in lost points. A rubric will be used to grade general in-class participation.

*Homework (15%) -* Homework will be assigned every day and is designed to help students practice what we are learning and have learned in class. Homework assignments need to be completed prior to the beginning of class and are to be done INDIVIDUALLY. Any student working on homework after class has started will receive a zero. Late homework assignments will be accepted one day late and will receive half credit.

***Classroom Behaviors***

Come to class prepared and on time, and stay there. Prepared means that you did your required work before class began and you have any necessary materials (notebook, writing utensil, etc.). On time means that you are in the room by the time the block begins (there aren’t bells in our program, but you’ll know the time- and the building is so small for 6 minutes of passing time). Stay in class means that you are expected to be involved in the learning process which is difficult if you are leaving every block. I do allow for you to leave if it will do you a whole lot of good; however, try to avoid it because it can be extremely disruptive to the learning process.

***BYOD***

Bring your own device to class. It is encouraged. There is so much on devices that can facilitate learning and we are lucky to be in a school that embraces that fact. I encourage you to use your phones and laptops in class **for learning Spanish** purposes. You do not need to bring anything as a part of class, but it can be a valuable tool. Of course, with great power comes great responsibility. No texting, calling, playing games, listening to music, watching videos, posting to social media, taking pictures, catching up on emails, etc.… unless relevant to our studies. Failure to adhere to these “rules” may result in sadness and other consequences.

\*\*IB, UAIS, and the teacher of this course reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus.