Crestdale Middle School

Exploratory Spanish/Spanish I A/B

Course Syllabus 2017-2018

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¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! This should be an exciting year for students as we begin to speak, read, write and listen to Spanish from around the world. As most of you know, the ability to speak and understand Spanish is a valuable asset in our diverse community. Spanish is a fascinating language and I am delighted to be teaching it here at Crestdale.

Although students will not receive textbooks, we will be using resources from CMS World Languages, Exprésate, Realidades , and Descubre. Students will develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills- listening, speaking, reading, and writing; with an emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing.

**Topics:**

 **6th grade:** This 18 week Exploratory Spanish class is designed to simply expose students to themes such as **basic introduction vocabulary, the alphabet, numbers, classroom objects, the calendar, etc.**

**7th grade:** Spanish 1 Part A is the first year of a two-year course at the middle school level. Students will study themes related to **Fall:** **Personal/Family life, Likes and Dislikes; Spring: school life and daily routines at home.**

**8th grade**: Students will build on everything studied in seventh grade Spanish. We will add more vocabulary, grammar and communication skills. There will be a heavier focus on speaking, reading, writing and listening. Themes include **Fall: Review, Activities/Sports, Events, Locations, Weather; Spring: Community, Locations, Directions, Shopping**

**Classroom Norms**-

* Students communicate in Spanish whenever possible/reasonable
* Students listen and follow directions; questions are welcomed
* Students are honest and respectful towards teacher, peers and school property
* Students are open to unusual classroom activities and appreciate learning various ways to practice their new language skills
* This is a high school level course and all students need to be respectful, self-disciplined and self-motivated. Consequences for unacceptable behavior will include parent contact, silent lunch and office referral.

**Daily Required Materials:**

* Planner
* 3 Ring Binder (1” or 1.5”) with six tab dividers and labels. This facilitates keeping all class materials together. Students should have specific sections for warm up, vocabulary lists, grammar, in-class practice, homework, and journal. Notebooks should be brought to class each day and they will be checked at any time for a grade, based upon completeness and organization.
* Pencils, red pens, 2 highlighters and 2 dry erase markers
* Paper-Students will need to keep paper in all 5 sections of the 3 ring binder.
* Zipper pencil case-with holes so that it can be placed in binder
* 10+ plastic sheet protectors

**Homework-**Homework is designed to be minimal and meaningful. There will usually be a brief, daily homework assignment, due the next class. Written assignments will normally be checked for completion, gone over for accuracy, and may be recorded for a grade at any time in this process. Students are encouraged to practice Spanish (vocabulary and grammar) every day outside of the classroom for at least 15 minutes.

**Extra Help, absences and make-up work-**Extra help for students is available **after school on** **Tuesdays from 4:15-4:45.** Students may attend as often as needed. Students will have the number of days missed plus 1 day to complete missing assignments/assessments due to an excused absence. Students are responsible for checking Google Classroom and approaching me about missed work and scheduling time to make up assessments. All make-up exams must be taken after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

**Grading Components**-I use a points system and follow the CMS requirement of formal and informal grades, as well as the county A-F scale. There will be a CMS created midterm and final exam.

grades are determined within weighted categories:

**65% Test**-This category will include some quizzes (because it takes a semester to finish a unit), all formal assessments and projects

**35% Homework:** This category will include warm-ups, classwork, homework, informal assessments.

**Missing/Late Work**: All missing assignments will be entered as a 0M until they are made up. Late work for students who were not absent from class will be accepted for up to 5 days after the due date at a 10% reduction per day A or per B day depending on which day you have Spanish. Any complete assignment turned in 5 days later or more (not exceeding 10 days), will receive a 50%. Score will remain a 0M if not turned at all or the 10 day limit is reached.

**High School Credit:** Successful completion of both seventh and eighth grade Spanish will earn on credit towards high school graduation.

**Second Chance Assessments**-Students who are not successful on a Formal assessment earning a score of 79% or lower, may have the opportunity to re-learn the material and try again for a grade that reflects acceptable achievement (no higher than 79%). Retakes must be scheduled within 1 week of the returned graded test and the highest grade between the 2 tasks will be the student’s final grade. **No grade higher that a 79% will be awarded, and re-takes will NOT be an option during the last week of the quarter.**

Thank you and I look forward to a great year!

 Sincerely,

 Tonya Clay