

Spanish Class Mr. Esterline

Surviving Spanish

You've probably heard people say, "I'm not good at learning languages." This is really not true for most people. The real problem is that, since they have never learned a second language, they don't have the study skills they need to succeed. Here are a few simple tips to help make learning a language easier.

Class

There are three rules in Spanish class LISTEN, PARTICIPATE, and DO THE ASSIGNMENTS. Most of the instruction that takes place in a language class is done through listening to and reading the language. It is very important to be in class as much as possible, since the work that is done in class cannot be done at home with a book. It is also very important to listen attentively not only to the teacher, but also to the other students when they are speaking. All the activities we do in class are designed to help you learn the language with the least amount of work on your part. If you participate actively in class you will find learning Spanish to be easy and enjoyable.

What to bring

You will need to bring a three ring binder and a writing utensil everyday. Do not bring your backpacks as we will need room to move around the classroom to use the computers, etc.

Homework

Homework is used to give students an opportunity to practice what they have learned outside of class without any help from the teacher. It is important to find out if you really learned what was being taught that day. Homework points also help students who may experience anxiety during tests and quizzes. Many students may not do well on tests, yet they still pass the class because they have all their homework done. If you are unsure how to do an assignment, come see me in the morning or at the end of the day so I can help you. Otherwise, try to make an educated guess at what the answer would be. Homework is not graded as being right or wrong. You will get credit as long as you try your best. We will go over the homework in class the next day. Be sure to pay close attention as we check the homework to ensure that you understand the material.

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the hour. All assignments must be complete and finished before coming to class. Assignments are typically worth 10 points each. Incomplete assignments will be marked as late and you will receive a zero. You will not be able to make up the points for that assignment.

Makeup Work

If you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what work you missed. All work must be made up within one week of the absence. If it is not made up within that time, it will remain as a zero and you will not be able to make up the points. Be sure to check your grades online at least twice a week to be sure you are not missing any assignments. If we have any free time in class you can check your grades on the classroom computers.

Grading

Grades will be divided up into three categories: **Homework**, which will be worth 30% of your marking period grade, **Participation** 20% and **Tests and Quizzes**, 50%. The semester grade will be calculated as follows: 80% = the average of the two marking periods, 20% = your semester exam. Grades will be averaged using percentages, not letter grades. All grades will be reported as letter grades according to the following scale:

100-94	93-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-Below
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Books

We will be using the “En Español” series in class. You will not be given a book to take home but we will have a classroom set that we will use when we need it. All materials you will need to study with at home will come from notes taken in class and handouts given to you by the teacher. If you feel you need to have a book at home, please ask and one can be provided. For extra help, the series offers activities and interactive vocabulary flashcards online at www.classzone.com

Cheating

Cheating is attempting to gain points by a means other than that intended by the teacher: copying someone else’s homework, using a cheat sheet on a test or quiz, etc. If you are caught cheating you will be given a zero for the assignment. If you are caught cheating a second time you will be dropped from the class with a grade of “E”.

Electronic devices

No electronic devices of any kind are allowed in class, this includes cell phones, calculators, ipods, etc. If you have one in class it will be taken away and taken to the main office.