**Spanish 1 Syllabus**

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Materials needed:

iPad, notebook, a folder with pockets, and a writing utensil. Please remember to bring your brain and your attention every single day! ☺ Any text books we use in class will be distributed in the classroom. You will be creating an account in Quizlet.com to practice vocabulary and general Spanish throughout the year.

Spanish 1: The Course

The purpose of this course is to begin acquiring the Spanish language. By the end of Spanish 1 you should have a basic grasp of the Spanish used in daily functioning as well as a familiarization of some common Hispanic cultural. You should be able to tell time, talk about the weather, your school, and express how you feel. You should also be able to answer simple questions about yourself, your likes, your dislikes, your daily routines, your friends and your family. We will be speaking in the present tense, present progressive, and preterite tenses!!

Tools & Methodology

Total Physical Response: Think about how children acquire their first language: They listen and babble for literally hundreds of hours before they even attempt to create small phrases. They often understand what their caregivers are saying, but can’t vocalize yet (hence we get a lot of grunts and pointing from them, and sometimes even tantrums from the frustration of not being understood).

However, when we teach children the language, we don’t say, “Oh, no, you must put a definite article before that word Try again.” Instead we encourage all attempts, so when the child says, “want cookie,” we say, “Oh, you want a cookie! Say please.” Ie; we demonstrate the correct form of the sentence and if the timing is right, we give them a cookie! ☺

Dr. James Asher took this supposition and through many trials and experiments, developed a tool called Total Physical Response (TPR), a tool which mimics this structure. It is a system of kinesthetic sensory learning which allows students to “experience” the foreign language, in a simplified version of the real world, in the same way they did their native language. His research found that students acquired the language faster than traditional classroom teaching. That means that not only did they “learn” it, they remembered it, and could understand and communicate in the target language much much earlier than the old book and pencil taught students, but that the students in these classrooms often took harder and harder language courses, thus becoming fluent or nearly fluent!

Other tools and methodologies will be used also – some traditional teaching, some Tan Gau, some storytelling, Berlitz q & a, multiple intelligences, journaling/reflection, and etc. In short, this will be a very non-traditional classroom experience for you!!

Goals

Our goals … to be able to communicate with others in basic Spanish! We want to be thinking and self-talking in basic Spanish. We don’t want to translate in order to discuss something basic. We want to work towards fluency. In short, our goal is Spanish, Spanish, Spanish!! ☺

Overall Values:

1. All people are Children of God. Differences add spice and verve. We value all that that entails.

2. Learning a foreign language requires intentional interaction and critical thinking.

3. Writing enables us to unearth values, beliefs, ideas, and feelings. This in turn allows us to discover ourselves as God reveals to us facets of ourselves which were previously unknown to us. Writing also allows us to discover God in ways we didn’t know Him beforehand.

4. Both effective speaking and listening are necessary for interacting with each other.

Growth opportunities:

Not only will we be learning Spanish, we will also be integrating it into our lives of faith. We will be looking at how Spanish/learning Spanish can assist us in growing closer to the Lord. Because this is so, you will need to take an active part in all this class entails:

* Class Discussions: Contribute to the best of your ability. Push yourself beyond your comfort zone!
* Listening to and showing respect for the ideas of others.
* iPad listening Assignments: You may be assigned to watch the same video or work on the same quizlet more than once. Maybe even in a row. It is essential that you do so. A first exposure you may learn one facet of the information, but as you acquire that part, you will be attuned to acquiring the nuances and other sections of the information.
* Stations: We will often break into groups in order to practice with a concept. I expect you to work the concept, not chat with your station partners.
* Trust the research. Trust me to have the goal of this class in mind!
* Written Assignments: We will reflect on some of the activities in class through written work. Write your best. Don’t be afraid to voice what you feel. This is an opportunity for you to discover how you are growing in the language as well as your Faith!
* Peer work: We may share some of our projects with others. Remember to critique honestly, but compassionately.
* Prayer: We will pray in Spanish.
* Memorization: Yep, we’ll be memorizing some things! Work at it every day and review it often, especially between exams, and it’ll stick, hopefully for a lifetime! ☺

**Objectives**

1. To acquire a working knowledge of basic Spanish daily living activities.
2. To promote students’ exploration and appreciation of Spanish on a personal level.
3. To immerse students in Spanish language.
4. To increase students’ knowledge and recognition of Spanish culture.
5. To encourage communication in Spanish with others.
6. To come to know learning Spanish fits into our faith life and honors God.
7. To assist students in discerning important information and taking good notes.

**What I expect of YOU!**

Arrive on time. Be prepared with all materials needed when the bell rings to begin class. Be ready to learn every day. Follow the class procedures which we will review the first day of class. Demonstrate respect to me, your peers, and to yourselves. Adhere to all the requirements detailed in the student handbook. Treat all classroom visitors; this includes a substitute teacher, cordially and with respect. Participate!

Also: Jesus is our model for all behavior. That means I expect honest, caring, and respectful interactions between all people in the class. I expect that conversations will be treated as if they were being spoken in His presence. Should we discuss sensitive issues, I expect maturity and sensibleness to be displayed. The measure for whether something is appropriate will be the following: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? (If the answers to those three are yes, then the following question should also be answered: Am I the person who should say it?)

What you can expect of ME!

In turn, I will be on time. I will be prepared, and ready to engage you in our topic every day. I will treat you, my colleagues, and myself with respect. I will be demanding on you, but I will walk this journey with you: Together we will encourage each other.

Also: I am available to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please come see me! If I am not available at that time, we will schedule a time that works for both of us.

**Grading:** Scoring will be calculated on a straight percentage and categorized per SJHS grading policy.

**Absences/Tardiness/Late Work:**  All assignments are due at the beginning of class on required day unless otherwise noted. In the case of an absence all assignments and tests must be made up. It will be your responsibility to get the late work and notes. Handouts can be found in the appropriate classroom folders.

When you miss my class you are responsible for coming to me the day you return to school to receive your missed assignments – whether you are scheduled for class with me that day or not. You have one day per day you were absent to make the work up and turn it in. If you are absent on a day homework is due, I expect that work to be turned in on the day you return to school, otherwise it will be considered late. I reserve the discretion to make exceptions. It is your responsibility to remember to turn in the work. If you fail to contact me about missed assignments or tests in the allotted time, a zero may result for that assignment. 5% of the grade may be subtracted for each day the assignment is late.

**Academic Integrity:**You may be asked to collaborate on some projects, but work that you turn in as your own must be your own.  If you use other sources for papers or presentations, you must cite them properly.

**Care of Classroom:**We will really be utilizing the classroom and its space. You share responsibility for keeping books, desks, materials, computer equipment, and all classroom items in good condition. When you leave, the classroom should look as good as, or better than, when you entered that day!

**Technology:** We may utilize technology such as our iPads &/or the Google Chromes. Students who misuse technology in the classroom will have their devices taken from them.

**PowerSchool:**In PowerSchool you and your parents are able to access your progress. Letter grades are based on the percentage of points accumulated during reporting period.

**Fun**

I like to make classroom time fun, using a variety of learning styles. When we step out of our comfort zones, while maintaining mature and responsible behaviors, we can have fun while we grow in the language and our faith. Remembering the class guidelines, we can explore the Spanish language in non-traditional ways - ie: not always reading from the book and writing notes every single class period! My hope is that we can respectfully learn together, pray together, and grow together in Jesus as you acquire the Spanish language.

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Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

¡Looking forward to a great year!