

**Miss McCaig**  
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World Language Department Ext. 6890  
**Spanish 1A: Periods 3, 6 & 8**

## **Bienvenidos!**

Welcome to Spanish 1A. This is the first in the series of Spanish language courses offered at Cold Spring Harbor Junior / Senior High School. Emphasis is placed on the introduction of the four basic language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) through a communicative approach to second language learning. The study of important aspects of Spanish cultures and civilizations will also be introduced throughout the course of this year. This class will begin to prepare students for the New York State Proficiency Examination in Spanish, which they are required to take at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Below are some of the pertinent rules for this class. Please make sure that you understand each and every one of them, as they will be effective throughout the entire year. The purpose of this sheet is to outline my expectations, thereby eliminating any confusion students may have.

## **Course Requirements:**

**1) Materials:** Please have the following items no later than **Monday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will be using them right away.

- **Notebook:** You are required to have one (1) notebook, to be used solely for **Spanish class**. Please do not put notes or materials from any other classes into this book, as it will be checked periodically. Feel free to purchase the notebook of your choice (binder, spiral, marble, etc).
- **Folder:** Along with your notebook, you are required to have one (1) pocket folder to hold handouts, dittos, tests, and quizzes from **Spanish class**. Folders will also be checked throughout the quarter. **\*\*Please note:** It is not necessary to purchase a separate folder if your Spanish binder has pockets.
- **Textbook:** En Español 1 will be distributed in class.
- **\*\*Optional:** An English-Spanish / Spanish- English Dictionary may be helpful.

**2) Attendance:** You are required to be in class everyday. Student participation is a vital part of any language class. If you're not here, you cannot actively engage in learning Spanish!

- **Absence:** In the case of absence from this class, it is **your** responsibility to find out all assignments from that day. If you are absent on the day of an exam, you must be prepared to take that exam **on the day you return to my class**. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- **Cutting:** The school policy will be followed in all cases of cutting. If you cut my class on the day of a quiz or test, or on the day that an assignment is due, you will receive a "0" as a grade. You are **still** responsible for missed work.

- **Signing in/Signing Out:** If you sign in after class, or sign out before class, you are **still** responsible for missed work. If there is a test scheduled, you must take it **that day**, or be excused by me. If there is an assignment due, you must hand it in **that day**, or be excused by me.

**3) Lateness:** When the bell rings, you must be in class, in your assigned seat. All latenesses will be recorded. After three (3) latenesses, a **detention referral** will be made. If you are detained for an excusable reason, make sure you receive a pass from a teacher or faculty member.

**4) Preparedness:** Each day I will expect you to have...

- **Your Spanish notebook and folder:** If these items are left in your locker, you are considered **unprepared** for my class. Five (5) points will be deducted from your classwork grade for every day that you are unprepared. Make sure you have everything you need before class, and get to class on time.
- **A writing instrument:** Please do not use red ink on any assignment, quiz, or test.
- **Your completed homework assignment:** Homework must be on your desk, ready to be checked or collected at the very beginning of every class period.
- **Anything else required for the day:** You will be given ample time to prepare for projects, presentations or supplemental work. Points will be taken off for each day students come to class without their completed assignments.

**5) Grading:** Student grades will be based solely on averages.

- **Homework / Classwork Grade:** Every student will start out with a grade of 100 for homework and classwork. For every missing or incomplete homework, 5 points will be deducted from that grade. For every instance of unpreparedness in class, 5 points will be deducted from that grade.
- **Exams:** Will **always** be announced in advance. Exams will be given frequently to assess student understanding. Students should expect to be tested on one chapter of information every two weeks.
- **Projects:** One project will be given each quarter. Students will have the opportunity to work on these projects both individually and in cooperative groups.
- **Speaking Grade:** Students are expected to use the target language as a means of effective communication during class. Students will earn points by participating in authentic classroom conversations.
- **Extra Credit:** Students will **not** be permitted to re-take quizzes or tests. However, **one** (1) extra-credit, research assignment will be available per quarter, upon request. Successful completion of an extra-credit assignment can add a **maximum** of one (1) point to a student's average.
- **\*\*Academic Honesty- Under NO circumstances will cheating be tolerated.** Any students involved in dishonest practices will receive a 0 for the assignment.

**6) Homework:** Homework will be assigned **four** (4) days a week unless otherwise stated by me.

- **Completeness:** Only completed homework will be accepted. If an assignment is not finished, students will lose 5 points from their homework grade.
- **Neatness:** Homework is to be completed in a clear and legible fashion. Homework assignments may be written by hand unless otherwise stated by me.

7) **Classroom Etiquette:** Students are expected to behave in a mature manner at all times in my classroom. Every person in this class is to be treated with respect, and will treat others with respect in return. If behavioral problems of any kind arise, **parental contact** will be made immediately.

8) **Extra Help:** Extra help sessions are available **promptly** after school on Mondays, from 2:30-3:00, or during one of my free periods throughout the school day. Please see me to schedule an appointment as needed.

### **\*\*\*Language Philosophy\*\*\***

As our main objective in this class is to gain a greater understanding of Spanish language and culture, class will be conducted almost **entirely** in Spanish. For the most part, English will **not** be permitted in this classroom. Please understand that all of my lessons, and my way of presenting these lessons, are designed to maximize your ability to learn Spanish, prepare for the New York State Proficiency Exam, and subsequently communicate in authentic settings.

**\*\* Please Note: A percentage of each student's final average will be based on a speaking grade. Points toward this grade are earned by actively participating in classroom conversation.**

I look forward to an interesting and fulfilling year! Thank you in advance for your cooperation.