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Teacher’s name: Senora Martinez School year: 2015/2016

**¡BIENVENIDOS AL CURSO DE ESPAÑOL!**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Learning a language requires being exposed to large amounts of that language and getting accustomed to communicating in that language even when one does not understand every word. The vast majority of course activities will be conducted in Spanish. Students will frequently be asked to work in pairs or small groups, and students are asked to make every attempt to communicate in Spanish in class. Students should not expect to comprehend every word; instead they should try to use what they do know (including the non-verbal cues, contextual information, and cognates) to understand the general meaning. Nonetheless, students should be sure to raise their hand and/or ask questions when they do not understand the general meaning. Students who are having difficulty are also encouraged to request additional explanation after school.

**COURSE GOALS**

By the end of the semester you should be able to do the following:

*        understand predictable questions and commands in topic areas
*        understand speech on familiar topics at a slower than normal speed
*        interact orally on familiar topics
*        use language for personal communications needs, ask and answer questions
*        understand written documents on familiar topics dealing with needs or interests
*        write descriptive paragraphs
*        demonstrate familiarity with selected aspects of Hispanic culture(s)
*        search for information on the Internet

This course will be taught utilizing a variety of multimodal, multisensory techniques that foster the development of oral proficiency in Spanish. Each class will feature a diverse mixture of activities designed to introduce, review and expand material. Class activities such as songs, role-plays, games and movement will help activate your memory and make learning more enjoyable.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Come to class on time- be in your seat and on task when class is scheduled to start.
2. Come to every class prepared and bring materials to class daily, pencils sharpened and materials in place BEFORE class begins. Be alert and prepared to speak Spanish.
3. Complete all assignments on time. Late homework will not be accepted except in the case of an excused absence. In case of absence, all previously assigned work is due upon return.
4. Respect language learning. Listen while others are speaking; remain quiet during work periods (exception during group assignments).
5. Respect each other’s opinions, space, and belongings.

**STUDENT CONDUCT**

The classroom is a learning environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Disruption will **NOT** be tolerated! Offenses will be dealt according to the School’s Discipline Plan and parents will be contacted accordingly. Minor offenses: 1st offense- verbal warning, 2nd offense-after school detention, 3rd offense-after school detention and administrative referral.

**HOMEWORK**

All homework is due the next day unless teacher has indicated otherwise. Late work is not accepted and is scored a zero. If the late work is due to an excused absence, the student will have the same amount of days he/she was absent to turn in the required work. There is a daily preparation of assigned homework. The repetition will help you learn good Spanish to use in conversation, exams and compositions. For each class session you should plan to spend, at least, 30 minutes of outside study and preparation.

 **COURSE GRADE**

Quarter grades will be calculated as follows:
20% Homework
30% Unit tests

20% Projects

15% Participation/oral communication

15% Class work
The final exam/project is worth 20% of the final semester grade.

This will be a fun filled year of learning a new language and becoming more aware of a new culture. I hope that each of you will take the time to read this carefully and keep it throughout the year for reference. I would like you to know my rules, procedures, grading system and some other “stuff” before the year gets into gear. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. My door is always open (“Mi casa es su casa.”) or you can call me or e-mail me here at the school, I look forward to teaching your child this semester and hope that each one is successful in Spanish.

Please sign this letter which states that you have read this letter and have your child return it. Thank you very much.

I have read the letter for Spanish and will do what I can to help\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ master the required material. (Student name)

Signature of Parent or Guardian Parents E-mail