

# Spanish "A" Syllabus

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*"El que algo quiere, algo le cuesta."  
"He that would have the fruit must climb the tree."*

## Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to mirror the first semester of high school Spanish I by developing students' abilities to speak, write, read, and understand basic Spanish. We will also explore the rich cultures and histories of Spanish-speaking countries so students may better understand and celebrate the diversity of people who speak Spanish.

## Course Scope and Sequence

Over the course of the semester, students will cover the following topics (temas) in Spanish A:

- Para empezar
  - This covers fundamental elements of speaking, such as elements of the classroom, school materials, time, days of the week, numbers, and parts of the body.
- Tema 1: Mis amigos y yo
  - In this section, students will learn to use infinitives, negatives, definite/indefinite articles (singular), adjective agreement (singular), and adjective placement.
- Tema 2: La escuela
  - Here, students will learn subject pronouns, present-tense regular -ar verbs, plural of nouns and articles, and the verb *estar*.
- Tema 3: La comida
  - This section explores present-tense regular -er and -ir verbs, *gusta/encanta* vs. *gustan/encantan*, plural of adjectives, and the verb *ser*.

## Expectations

- Follow the middle school philosophy of HONESTY, CARING, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY
- Be productive.
- Be open-minded.
- Be kind.

## Consequences

Inappropriate behavior or failure to follow classroom expectations will result in the following consequences:

1. Verbal or nonverbal warning.
2. Complete a write up/reflection sheet.
- ⊙ Reflection (with parent signature/call).

3. Lunch detention.
4. Office visit (dean).

### Materials

- Binder, 1 inch
- Pens/Pencil (lots)
- Planner
- 3x5 Notecards (Students will need a large quantity of these throughout the semester)

*Note: Students will be using **Realidades A** (textbook) in class and will have access to several additional resources via the MMS Schoolwires page. Materials for homework will be distributed during class.*

### Grading Scale

Students will be graded according to the standard Mattawan Middle School grading scale in the following categories: (grades will be posted on Infinite Campus)

- Class participation (worksheets, activities, dialogues, etc.): 30%
- Quizzes (vocabulary & grammar): 25%
- Homework (3-5 times/week): 30%
- Unit Tests (6-7 per semester): 15%

### Procedures

1. Entering the class: Look at the agenda (temario) on the board, copy the agenda in the planner, and pick up any necessary papers. Be seated and begin your warm up. (Don't forget to greet Señor!)
2. Bathroom passes: Go before class. If you must go, you will need to have your planner... and ask in Spanish!
3. Late work: Papers not turned in on time will receive ½ credit.
4. Turning in assignments: All work gets turned in to your class bin. Your Spanish first name, and your English last name must be on it to receive credit.
5. Absences: Check with classmates for anything that you missed. There is a basket in class that will have any handouts/assignments you need. It is YOUR responsibility to check for make-up work. You have 3 days to complete it for full credit. Please write ABSENT on the top so you don't receive half credit.
6. Attention: To get your attention, I will count backwards from three in Spanish. If I reach zero, and have to keep counting, the class will make up the time at the end of the period. Help your classmates by counting along with me when I have your attention.
7. Guest teachers are valuable members of our school community and deserve the utmost respect. If your name is left by them, it will be an automatic lunch detention in the SRC.
8. Please be mindful that when you are receiving a grade for your work, it should reflect YOUR abilities and understanding of the topic, not someone else's. Cheating of any kind will result in a zero.

### ¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!

It is my pleasure to lead you on this journey into the Spanish-speaking world. Never hesitate to ask for help or clarification. Students and parents are encouraged to email, call, or stop by for any assistance.