

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!

Dear Parents:

I am eager to teach your students Spanish this year! My goal is to teach ALL students to communicate in Spanish. In order to accomplish this, I will be implementing a variety of proven strategies for FL instruction, some of which are 'traditional' and some that are more 'contemporary' in nature. In order to help you support your child's learning, I would like to share some important information about how one becomes proficient in another language:

- The only essential ingredient necessary for language acquisition to occur is Comprehensible Input.
- Input = reading & listening to the language in a comprehensible form.
- Comprehensible Input = UNDERSTANDING what you hear and read.
- If input is also compelling and in context, acquisition will occur more quickly and more enjoyably.
- Being forced to speak and/or repeat words and phrases does not lead to acquisition or learning.
- Conjugation does not lead to communication or proficiency.
- Learners need to hear and/or read words/phrases many, many times (50 to 150) in a compelling, contextualized and comprehensible way in order to internalize them to a point where they are actually able to USE them.
- Although production (speaking & writing) is NOT necessary for language acquisition to occur, INTERACTION in the language (listening and responding) will greatly enhance the acquisition/learning process.
- Reading will greatly enhance acquisition and increase the rate of acquisition!
- Our brains are not wired to focus on grammatical rules and language simultaneously. In other words, knowing grammar rules will not help you become fluent. In fact, in many cases, it will actually deter it!

Spanish curriculum at Holy Rosary School at a glance:

Grades Pre-K through 4, Spanish is designed to help students increase confidence in their ability to use the Spanish language in ordinary, daily encounters in which oral skills are essential. Through skits, role-playing and routine everyday conversations, students practice using simple vocabulary and sentences and develop increasing oral fluency in their second language. As students develop greater comfort and ease, they will increase their knowledge of vocabulary, their use of grammatical structures and conversational fluency.

In grades 5, 6, 7 students continue to practice their language skills. Spanish is taught in a fun and engaging way. Students acquire Spanish with a combination of music, lesson activities, games, authentic children's Spanish literature, art, and drama. Students practice their oral communication skills with a partner as well as whole class activities. We will engage in speaking, reading, listening, and writing activities in order to gain a higher level of proficiency in Spanish. We will complete tasks and projects that help to build skills to communicate in a variety of real life contexts. In addition, we will be exploring the cultural aspects of many of the Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish in grade 8 continues the emphasis on oral communication while further developing student skills in reading, writing, and listening. At this level I present more challenging grammatical concepts, additional verb tenses, and more specialized vocabulary. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).