

Welcome to Spanish 8!

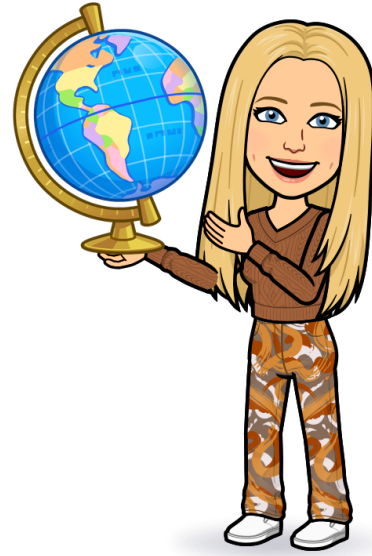
Location: **Room 265**

Class: Part 2 of Spanish I

Teacher: Ms. Lowney

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My name is Ms. Lowney and I recently graduated from Marywood University in May with my master's degree in Spanish Education K-12, and last year with my bachelor's in Spanish, Education, and Caribbean, Latinx & Latin American Culture. My specialty is Afro-Diasporic post-colonial literature, specifically Equatoguinean poetry (it sounds crazy, but it's super cool). Even though my college was in Pennsylvania, I'm from Red Hook and I went to Red Hook Schools from K-12!

The reason I love Spanish so much is because of the opportunities that learning Spanish gives us. The countries where Spanish is spoken are all full of rich, turbulent and super interesting histories and exciting cultures. With access to the Spanish language, we can unlock a new window into learning about the world, the people in it, and how we fit into all of it! Now, let's look at what we'll be doing here together.

My three big goals for this year are...

- 1) You will learn Spanish.
- 2) You will learn *how* to learn.
- 3) You will learn how to be *organized*.

Super Rough Outline of this Year

Week	Chapter
1	Introductions
2	Review of 7th grade
3-13	Chapter 3
14-25	Chapter 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midterm assessment
25-38	Chapter 5
38-40	Review & Final Exam

*** This agenda is subject to change ***

Overview

Spanish I is a one year course broken up into two years at LAMS to give a more thorough experience. Spanish I in 7th grade is the first half of the course that students have taken at LAMS, and Spanish I in 8th grade is the second half. THIS COURSE IS A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE AND WILL APPEAR ON YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT. That means, colleges will see your Spanish grade for this class when you apply! In this year of the course, we cover vocabulary for school and hobbies, restaurant and food, and sports, as well as present tense verbs, indirect object pronouns and more grammar topics. Organization will be KEY in this class and will count toward your grade in a big way. This leads me to my three hopes and goals for you this year: 1) You will learn Spanish. 2) You will learn how to learn. 3) You will learn how to be organized. We will talk more about how we will achieve these three goals(:

Supplies

Looseleaf

Pen/pencil

3x5 Index cards

4 dividers

Class Policies

1. Cell Phones - Students must follow Linden Avenue Middle School's cell phone policy at all times. All cell phones must be turned off and away in a locker, off of a student's person for the entirety of the school day. If a student is unable to adhere to this policy, the teacher will be required to confiscate the device and 1) hold it at her desk or 2) return it to the main office if the problem is recurrent.
2. Bathroom Breaks - Raise your hand and ask when you need to use the restroom, you may not leave the room without asking at any time.
3. Homework - Homework due dates will be clearly stated and posted on the classroom chalkboard behind the teacher's desk, online, in students' agendas, and in every daily slideshow. Homework will typically be collected or reviewed at the beginning of the class period. Homework grades are based largely on effort, not accuracy. (AKA: just try your best.)
4. Late work - Students who have late work to be submitted should turn it in at the bin on the student station labeled "late work". Students are required to fill out a "Missing Homework Slip" when missing a homework assignment. This is an attempt to keep students responsible for their homework. As a general rule, homework turned in late will be deducted ONE point per day it is late, except for in the case of extenuating circumstances. What that means is, we are all human and we all make mistakes, forget, and have our own lives. Talk to me, and we can work it out (:
5. Grades - Students will be graded primarily on **effort**. Remember that I want you to succeed!! We will have a lot of grades based on effort, as I really want to see you trying your best. For example, binder checks will be graded every

five weeks for completion and organization. ORGANIZATION IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THIS CLASS AND WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE. There will also be assignments based solely on vocabulary and grammar accuracy, not just effort, but effort will usually matter the most! Always keep that in mind.

6. Absences - If a student is absent, they should check the folder for their class labeled "Absent?" on the Student Station table, and look for the papers with their name on them. In the case of an absence, work that a student missed will have a due date written on the top of the sheet. If you have questions, talk to me or email me(:
7. Classroom Behavior - Behavior policies will be created and reviewed by the students and teacher together in the first week of class! As a general rule, in our classroom we value...
 - ★ **Kindness** (ex: speak about all people with kind words at all times)
 - ★ **Responsibility** (ex: come to class prepared each day)
 - ★ **Respect** (ex: no speaking while the teacher is speaking)
 - ★ **Bravery** (ex: try your best always, whatever your best is that day)

Be Respectful

- ★ Stay quiet while I'm speaking.
- ★ Stay quiet while your classmates are speaking.
- ★ Keep my classroom a safe & **clean** space.

Be Kind

- ★ Speak only kind words to and about your classmates.
- ★ Speak only kind words about **yourself**.
- ★ Be considerate to the feelings of those around you

Be Responsible

- ★ Bring what you need to class every day.
- ★ Take control of your own learning.
- ★ Technology is a tool, not a toy.

Be Brave

- ★ Never say "I can't do it".
- ★ Always give your best effort.
- ★ Take risks and don't be afraid to fail when trying something new.

Discipline

Generally but not always, situations that do not follow our class rules will result in the following course of action for discipline.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Lunch Detention/Email Home
3. Phone Call/Email Home
4. Referral/Formal Write Up

Grade Breakdown

Student average is calculated by taking all of the points available in a marking period and dividing the number of points scored by that denominator. For example: 5 homeworks total 50 points. If a student completed 4/5 homeworks, that is 40/50 points, and that is an 80% average. Assignments that are worth more points will therefore weigh more in the students average.

Quizzes

If a student is absent on the day of a quiz, they have one week to make up the quiz. Any student can do quiz corrections on any quiz (not test or exam). **But, students who do not complete 80% of the work for the topic of the quiz (homeworks/ classworks/ etc) will need to make up the work before they are permitted to complete quiz corrections.** To complete quiz corrections, students must copy down the words that they have lost points for on a sheet of looseleaf, writing the word 3 times in Spanish and 1 time in English.

Students who repeatedly fail quizzes will adhere to the following schedule in an attempt to help raise quiz grades.

- 2 failed quizzes = a meeting with me during lunch
- 3 failed quizzes = a phone call home

Student Portfolio

Students will be crafting a portfolio of their work and notes for this school year. This will help us to grow our organizational skills, create a study guide for the final exam, as well as set up a solid foundation for high school Spanish! This portfolio will be created in the students 1 inch binder that is stored in the classroom.

We will use 4 dividers for the portfolio: Clerical, Study Guides, Notes, Practice.

Practice is the category that students can use in their own way, but the first three are very specific and will be graded every 3 weeks on organization and completion.

- Clerical: Weekly agendas, grade tracking, syllabus
- Study guides: study guides! (:
- Notes: Guided notes, written notes, *really* good classwork
- Practice: Homework/classwork that is worth keeping (up to the student)