

# Welcome to Spanish 8!

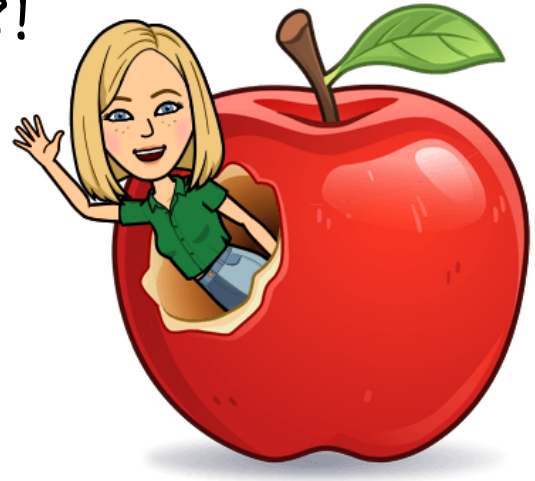
*Location:* **Room 265**

*Time:* **12:40-1:20pm**

*Teacher:* Ms. Lowney

*Email:* [elowney@rhcsd.org](mailto:elowney@rhcsd.org)

*Phone:* 845-758-2241 ext. 71072



---

My name is Ms. Lowney and I just graduated from Marywood University in May with a degree in Spanish, Education, and Caribbean, Latinx & Latin American Culture. Now, I'm working on my master's degree in Spanish Education at the same school! Even though my college is in Pennsylvania, I'm from Red Hook and I went to Red Hook Schools from K-12.

My specialty is Afro-Diasporic post-colonial literature, specifically Equatoguinean poetry. This sounds super fancy and academic, but I'll share some of it with you during our time together and you'll see it's not as intimidating as it sounds. It basically means I study writing from African people who have been kicked out of their country by colonialism and its effects.

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.

## Super Rough Outline of this Year

Week	Chapter
1	Introductions
2	Speedy review of 7th grade
3-7	Chapter 3
8-14	Chapter 4
15-21	Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Midterm assessment</li></ul>
22-30	Chapter 6
31-40	Chapter 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final assessment</li></ul>

\* The form and rubric for the midterm and final assessments/project will be decided upon and distributed at the appropriate time (: Until then, don't stress!

\* We'll work through this together, and I'll be learning along the way with you guys. I appreciate your patience and I look forward to your input on the structure of our class.

**\* This is subject to change \***

## **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 - Everybody needs to use the restroom, so feel free to use the bathroom passes when you need. This open policy is contingent upon the students not abusing the system with bathroom breaks simply to leave the classroom. That means, if students are using the bathroom constantly to an unreasonable degree, the policy will be reevaluated and made stricter either for the whole class or the individual student. While access to use the restroom during school is a right you have as humans, the honor policy in our classroom is a revocable privilege, not a right.
3. Homework - Homework due dates will be clearly stated and posted on the classroom chalkboard behind the teacher's desk. 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". 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. There will also be assignments based solely on accuracy, but effort will always 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)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be Respectful</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Stay quiet while I'm speaking.</li> <li>★ Stay quiet while your classmates are speaking.</li> <li>★ Keep my classroom a safe &amp; <b>clean</b> space.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be Responsible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Bring what you need to class every day.</li> <li>★ Take control of your own learning.</li> <li>★ Technology is a tool, not a toy.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be Kind</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Speak only kind words to and about your classmates.</li> <li>★ Speak only kind words about <b>yourself</b>.</li> <li>★ Be considerate to the feelings of those around you</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be Brave</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Never say "I can't do it".</li> <li>★ Always give your best effort.</li> <li>★ Take risks and don't be afraid to fail when trying something new.</li> </ul>

## Grade Breakdown

<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spanish is a beautiful language, and many people leave high school Spanish with no confidence in their speaking abilities. That will not be you guys!</li><li>• We're all still learning (yes, even me!) and we will all make mistakes. That's completely fine, and that's why I'm here!</li><li>• Participation for me means<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Giving your best effort on your work</li><li>○ Speaking Spanish as much as possible</li><li>○ Taking responsibility for your learning</li></ul></li></ul>	20%
<p>Exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We won't have many, but quizzes/tests are important to checking comprehension of vocabulary and grammar concepts in Spanish.</li><li>• There will be opportunities for extra credit and extra help if you need it, so don't let these exams stress you out(:</li></ul>	20%
<p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects are a great way to show what you know. These will sometimes be collaborative and sometimes be individual work. Either way, the majority of your grade for these projects comes from (you guessed it) effort!</li></ul>	20%
<p>Daily Assignments/Classwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hmm... what could I possibly be looking for here? Oh yeah. Effort! Try your best and you'll be golden.</li></ul>	40%