AP Spanish 5 Español 2016-2017

Instructor: Señora Pommerenke Room: 204 Contact: kcpommerenke@bluevalleyk12.org (preferred) Classroom: 239-3228 (after 3:00 pm)

¡Bienvenidos!

Spanish 5 stresses language proficiency through reading, analyzing, discussing and writing essays about literature and global events; explaining and communicating abstract ideas and concepts in educated Spanish; maintaining conversations with native speakers and emphasizing cultural themes, along with advanced vocabulary and constantly reviewing and polishing grammar. Paramount are learning and using literature devices and writing in narrative and expository styles as themes are developed and presented. What you say is as important as how you say it, and it must incorporate higher level thinking skills. Extensive and deliberate preparation for the spring AP Spanish language exam is a focus of this course, which is taught in Spanish. It is an AP honors class, and a college credit course [Intermediate Spanish I, 3 hours] through College Now / JCCC.

Students are expected to speak only Spanish. You will be reading, practicing, speaking, listening, dramatizing and writing some compositions / stories in Spanish, as well as practicing higher-level thinking skills. You will be working frequently in pairs, and you are expected to study on a daily basis whether there is an assignment or not. Above all, you will be expected to participate frequently, in Spanish, to show you are learning and using the advanced level of Spanish we are studying in class.

What’s important?

1. Participate in Spanish, don’t be afraid to be wrong and make mistakes.

2. Improve your skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Bottom line: become proficient to effectively and professionally communicate in any daily activity in a Spanish-speaking country.

3. Speak and write in complete sentences.

4. Analyze … express and support your opinion in Spanish … understand what is being requested.

5. Be open-minded.

6. Ask, ask and ask if you don’t understand. If you still don’t understand, let Sra. Pommerenke know asap; come in to get help.

**Expectations:** The following expectations will help you make class time and study time useful and positive.

* **Be respectful and considerate of classmates and teachers! Be courteous and considerate.**
* **Be responsible – check your email, web postings, come for help when needed, ask questions!**
* **Be prepared for class! Always bring the required materials and completed homework. Remember the BVN Honor Code.**
* **Study daily! Do homework on a consistent basis!**
* **Use only Spanish! The more you use it, the easier it will be to remember. Take risks! Don’t be afraid to make mistakes! Making mistakes helps you learn and is a normal part of learning a language.**
* **Put away and turn off all electronic devices, leave phone on desk before asking permission to leave the room.**
* **Only water is permitted, no food or drinks.**
* **BE ON TIME: Class starts when the bell rings, and you must be in your seat.**

You must be **in your seat** when the **bell rings** or you are tardy. You must submit your pass if the tardy is excused. At the end of the hour, remain seated until the bell rings AND **I dismiss you** with **¡Adios!**

* **BE POSITIVE AND HAVE FUN!**

**Materials Required** – bring these to class every day.

* Texts will be checked out as needed and can be kept in the classroom when not in use. Each student is responsible for his/her assigned text and will be charged if that text is not returned. Never take a text from the classroom that is not assigned to you!
* A three-ring binder to be used only for Spanish class. You should organize all handouts, homework, notes, vocabulary lists, culture notes, essays, etc. in your notebook. Your text is not a notebook!
* Highlighter, pencils, black or blue pens, red or green pens, highlighter, two dry erase markers for the classroom.
* Eraser, notebook, loose leaf paper, notecards.
* A good Spanish/English dictionary.
* A box of Kleenex.

**Attendance and Food Policy** : All classes will follow the published Blue Valley North High School policy for attendance, tardies, and food/drinks in class. (Only water is allowed.)The study of a foreign language requires steady, progressive learning; therefore regular attendance, class participation, and frequent study are encouraged and required. **You will need to make up work and participation points.** If you are tardy (not in the classroom when the bell rings), you will be given a warning. Consequent tardies will merit a trip to Tardy Tracker.

**Cell Phone Policy**: Absolutely no use of cell phones, iPods, etc. will be allowed in class. This includes using the phone as a calculator, for text messaging, pictures and games. To avoid any conflicts, make sure it is not out/visible in class and everything is turned **OFF**!

**Make-up work:** It is your responsibility to obtain missed assignments from School Center and/or Sra. Pommerenke and fellow classmates as needed. You will be allowed a make-up period of two school days for each excused absence. **If you are aware of an upcoming absence, it is *your* responsibility to get the assignments in advance and to turn them in upon returning to class.** This is true for both sports/school absences and appointments. Quiz and tests make-up times must be scheduled with me. No time will be given during class for make-up work. If you know of your absence ahead of time, be proactive.

**Quarter Grades:** Your grade is comprised of oral and written work.

Grades will be determined using a weighted scale:

* Tests = 40%
* Participation = 35%
* Collected assignments and Essays = 20%
* Homework = 5%

**Semester Grades and final exams:**

* The district grading scale will be followed (90+ = A, 80+ = B, 70+ = C, 60+ = D, 59 or below = F). In the event of borderline semester averages, (89.3%) the grade will only be rounded up to the higher percentage**,** if all homework assignments are complete AND there is an upward trend in your performance AND you have never been involved in academic dishonesty.
* The weighted components of the quarter grade will total 80% of your semester grade.
* A multi-component performance assessment will be given during the second and fourth quarters. The components of this exam will count as the final exam for the course. Due to grading constraints, some of these components will be given prior to the assigned final examination day. The components of the exam will be weighted. The total will count as 20% of the semester grade.

**Course Work:**

* Grammar and language structures. When new material is presented I will introduce the grammar and you will be expected to complete the assigned practice activities by the due date. Sometimes you will be required to review on your own and to prepare the assignments. In either case, you will be tested over these items. I will also expect you to incorporate them into your essays and other work where appropriate.
* **Homework:** This is not an option. Homework is individual practice. Students will master skills and realize questions while completing homework. Assignments should be in blue or black ink or pencil. Homework may be graded for completion or for mastery. It is imperative to do it well.
* Essays. Essays should be a minimum of two pages, hand-written and double-spaced. If you write large, write more. That is to say, if you only write 4 or 5 words per line, you should be turning in more than two full pages. Sometimes you may choose the topic, and sometimes you will write from a question, prompt or picture.

In addition to improving your basic Spanish writing skills, the purpose of the essays is to help you develop a high-frequency vocabulary, to improve your editing skills, to give you an opportunity to use language creatively and to incorporate grammar skills we have studied. It’s one thing to practice grammar and vocabulary in a guided activity; it’s something altogether different to transfer those skills to creative usage. It is imperative that you show progress in your essay writing. You cannot make the same mistakes or use the same expressions over and over again, and expect A’s or even B’s. You have to incorporate corrections, new expressions, new grammar and a variety of expressions throughout the year. Some writings will be formal, informal, at home, in class, timed to correspond with AP requirements. New mistakes teach us something. Old mistakes do not.

* Vocabulary. Each unit will include thematic vocabulary. Students will be responsible for this vocabulary. It should be used as often as possible in class discussion as well as written work. In addition, it is always a good idea to keep a running list of words that are new to you. Tests will include vocabulary questions, usually Spanish-Spanish.
* Exams and other quizzes. Exams and quizzes may include culture, speaking, reading, writing and listening activities. The format may include multiple choice, true/false, fill in, matching, short answer and/or essay questions.
* Integrated Performance Assessments. Students at all BV high schools will complete the same IPA for each unit. The IPA may involve speaking, listening, reading or writing skills and will count as a test score. Students will always know IPA topics in advance and receive a scoring rubric before beginning the assessment.
* Discussion and Participation. Students who earn a high participation grade challenge themselves daily to speak only Spanish. These students go beyond the basic participation of simply responding to the teacher’s questions, but furthermore, regularly volunteer to participate in class discussion. In addition, these students push their ability to speak Spanish to its limit by using conversation skills such as circumlocution to assist them when expressing ideas that may challenge their speaking ability. You will be graded on both quantity and quality.
* Speaking Points: Spanish is a **PERFORMANCE CLASS**, therefore Spanish speaking points will be tabulated and compared to non-participation / silence / monosyllabic answers as well as the use of English during class. A separate handout based on the World Language Dept. guidelines will explain how to earn these points.

**Academic Support:** Students are expected to take the initiative in their learning. If a student does not understand something or needs additional practice, he or she is expected to ask for help, do additional exercises and take advantage of all available academic support as outlined below.

* Academic support is available to all students in all classes on Wednesday from 2:25 – 3:15.

WEDNESDAY IS NOT AN EARLY RELEASE DAY!

* Students are expected to use Academic Support for extra help, to ask questions or to make up assessments and speaking points. Feel free to work with me or with fellow students in my classroom during this time.
* I am generally available in the morning from 7:20 until classes begin. This is the best time to get last minute help with a homework assignment due that day. The statement, “I could not do my homework because I did not understand” is not acceptable. I am usually available after school as well.
* There are many opportunities for extra practice. A list of Internet sites that will be beneficial to your success can be found on School Center. You may also do exercises from additional readings from newspapers on the web and/or books in the classroom and check out tapes and films to use at home, etc.

**Language Laboratory:** You will be assigned a specific seat. When you arrive at your seat, check to see that there are not any problems. If there is a problem, report it to me. NO GAMES IN THE LAB. YOU MUST STAY ON TASK. Before you leave, hang up headsets, put keyboard back in front, mouse on top of the computer, shut down computer, and push in chair. NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM IN THE LAB! You are responsible for your station-the next student will let their teacher know if you left a problem. Remember that all work in the lab is part of your class work and must be made up.

**CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!** I will follow the guidelines of the BVN Honor Code. Students are reminded that the use of unauthorized technology such as on-line translation is cheating. Likewise, having anyone, including parents or tutors, complete your work is cheating. Students must be able to reproduce and demonstrate understanding for any and all concepts used in their work.

**Substitute teachers:** Students are reminded that all of the expectations in the directives are to be met if there is a substitute.

**Success** in the study of a foreign language depends primarily on the interest and desire to learn. It requires work outside of the daily classroom activities and regular attendance in class. In addition to completion of the formal homework assigned, students are expected to review old vocabulary or concepts, complete on-line practice, redo previous work and practice the READ IT, WRITE IT, SAY IT, HEAR IT study skill.

If you are feeling lost or confused, ask questions! Come in for extra help during Academic Support time or make an appointment to see me before or after school. My goal is to help you succeed! I am looking forward to helping you become a better Hispanophone!