

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!

A note to the 8th grade from Señorita Monaghan

Welcome to Spanish class! I am very excited for this year because it will be filled with a lot of fun as we learn about Spanish as a foreign language. Your first years learning a language are very important in determining your level of fluency in the future. Just remember that it will take a lot of practice and patience! If you follow along and practice in class AND at home, you will certainly have a successful year!

The foreign language curriculum at Ashland Middle School provides a balanced focus on the four essential language proficiency skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This class is designed to help students attain a basic level of proficiency. Additionally, both cultural and geography connections are provided in the classroom setting. Teachers instill in students the awareness that a foreign language class is not just a study of language, but an understanding of other cultures that surround them.

What to Bring to Class Daily:

- 1) 1 1/2 inch three ring binder with dividers (5) and loose leaf paper
- 2) Pencils or pens
- 3) Dry-erase markers and a dry-erase eraser or sock to use as an eraser
- 4) Spanish dictionary for use both in school and at home
- 5) Agenda for writing down assignments

Overview of Topics:

- Family
- Eating and ordering at a restaurant
- House: rooms, household items, and chores
- Clothes and shopping
- Vacation places and modes of transportation
- Recycling, volunteer work, and places in the community
- Movie theaters, television shows, and movie genres
- Technology: computer-related activities

General Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- 1) Come to class on time, enter quietly, and keep hands to yourself.
- 2) Come to class prepared with homework, binder, writing utensils, and a whiteboard marker and whiteboard eraser.
- 3) Be seated and have homework out at the beginning of class.
- 4) Complete the daily warm-up at the beginning of class. If there is no daily warm-up, study and review vocabulary and grammar while class begins.
- 5) Follow the teacher's directions/instructions the first time.
- 6) Be kind and respectful to your classmates and teachers.
- 7) No yelling, distractions, or unnecessary talking.

Consequences or Corrective Measures:

- 1) Verbal Warning
- 2) Name on board
- 3) Fill out refocus sheet
- 4) 2 minutes after class
- 5) Detention with parent contact

* Severe case or repeated offense: Principal's Office

Grading Policy:

Tests: 35%
Quizzes: 25%
Projects: 15%
Class work/participation: 15%
Homework: 10%

* If a student receives below a 70% on a quiz, he/she may re-take it **after school**, and the two quiz grades will be averaged. However, the averaged make-up grade shall not exceed 80%.

Homework Policy:

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis to help reinforce what was learned in class, to prepare students for upcoming lessons, to teach responsibility, and to help students develop positive study habits. Most assignments should not take more than 20 minutes to complete. If there is no specific homework assignment, students should review current vocabulary and concepts learned in class.

Please be sure to write down your homework in your agenda book every day in class. If you forget, please use the class website to check what the homework is. The class website is www.senoritamonaghan.weebly.com. You can also find my contact information on the class website, as well.

I expect that all homework assignments will be turned in on time. Therefore, **I do not accept late homework**. If there is a legitimate reason as to why a student is not able to finish homework, please send a note to me on the day the homework is due stating the reason why it was not completed. The note must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Textbook:

This year we will use the **Realidades** textbook to cover **Chapter 5A** through Chapter **9B**. Textbooks will only be used in class. Students will have access to their textbooks outside of school through their online account on Realidades.com or SuccessNetPlus.com. The online textbook offers additional review materials such as flashcards, audio files, animations, self-study tools, interactive maps, voice recording (RealTalk) grammar tutorials, short video segments, Hip Hop songs, and interactive review games which make reviewing fun! The online textbook also offers an amazing online Bilingual Visual Dictionary for additional vocabulary.

In Realidades, Spanish is taught in a thematic manner but with vocabulary words presented visually and in context and at times accompanied by narrative. Extra practice is available online and students should review vocabulary daily to reinforce and enhance learning.

What to Expect:

In class, students will work individually for focused practice then transition to paired practice activities. You will often work in teams, partners, or groups throughout the year. We will use various supplemental and ancillary materials such as: workbooks, overhead transparencies, CD ROMs with listening activities, short video clips with native speakers, and music.

Recognizing that individuals have unique learning styles, a variety of methods are used to facilitate language learning and acquisition such as: modeling of vocabulary, brief guided conversations, partner practices, group activities, individual instruction, videos, cultural readings, games, and hands-on activities.

It is important to note that quizzes and tests will consist of some if not all of the following: listening, reading, writing, speaking, and cultural comprehension.

Everyone is expected to participate in class on a daily basis!

It is my goal to make our classroom feel safe and comfortable so that you do not feel afraid to try, and most importantly so that you do not feel afraid to make mistakes. We can all learn from each other!

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at **lmonaghan@ashland.k12.ma.us**

Get excited! It is going to be a great year!
¡Emociónate! ¡Vamos a tener un buen año!

Nombre:

Fecha:

Clase:

Please review the syllabus at home for homework and fill out the the questions below. Then, review the answers with your parent and bring back this signed page tomorrow for your first homework grade.

1. Under what circumstances can you re-take a quiz in Spanish class?

2. If you leave class and forget what the homework is, where can you go to check it?

3. Does Srta. Monaghan accept late homework?

4. What does Srta. Monaghan expect you to have in class each day?

5. Name three rules you must follow in Srta. Monaghan's class:

My child, _____, has reviewed the syllabus with me for homework, and we are now both aware of Señorita Monaghan's policies and expectations for Spanish class this year.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date