Bienvenidos a la clase de Sr. P
Omaha North High Magnet School
Sr. Pospishil
Bradley.Pospishil@ops.org
Plan periods A7 and B8

Course Descriptions:

Spanish 1/2
This course in International Languages at the first-year level stresses interactive oral proficiency skills in order to develop survival skills in the target language. Students receive an introduction to the fundamentals of the language. Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally. They also begin to develop awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world. Grammar focus is on the present tense.

Spanish ¾
This course in International Languages at the second-year level is a continuation and expansion of the principles and concepts of the first year. During this time, students continue to work extensively with the interactive oral aspects of language learning while also delving more extensively into language structure, reading for information and general composition. Students continue to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world. Grammar focus is on the preterit and imperfect past tense. Spanish 5/6
This course, designated as Honors classes, emphasizes using the target language, authentic materials, and technology throughout instruction. Students are required to use the language to a greater extent in class conversations and for reading fiction and non-fiction, magazines and newspapers. Cultural projects are to be carried out in the target language. Students are expected to write coherent paragraphs, short stories, and outlines. Students continue to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

Spanish 7/8
This course, designated as Honors classes, emphasizes using the target language, authentic materials, and technology throughout instruction. Students are required to use the language to a greater extent in class conversations and for reading fiction and non-fiction, magazines and newspapers. Cultural projects are to be carried out in the target language. Students are expected to write coherent paragraphs, short stories, and outlines. Students continue to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

-Taken directly from the course descriptions.

Instructional Philosophy: I want students have a solid foundation to read, write, speak and understand Spanish. I believe that the study of vocabulary words is the most important thing a student can do to achieve this goal. The next most important thing is the study of the culture of the Spanish speaking countries through their art, history, food, and music.

Classroom Procedures:

1. Bring all materials to class: Spanish notebook, a writing utensil, any homework, your I.D. card, and a Spanish dictionary. In this class prior preparation prevents poor performance.

2. There are some basic rules for remaining in this class. 1. DO NOT BE A PROBLEM. BECAUSE IF YOU ARE A PROBLEM I WILL DO SOMETHING. 2. NO OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE OR PUTDOWNS. 3. DON’T CHEAT. 4. YOU WILL CREATE A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. 5. LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES.

3. There are some basic procedures in the class. EVERY DAY THERE IS A POSSIBLE QUIZ OR TEST. Practice is the key to understanding a foreign language. Studies have shown that a person must see a word 75 times before committing it to memory. YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE WORDS TO STUDY AND VERB CONJUGATIONS TO PRACTICE. The benefits for studying Spanish will last a lifetime. The United States currently has the fifth most
Spanish Speakers in the world. Studies have shown that the study of a foreign language can help with ACT, SAT, and college preparation. Bilingual workers can expect higher salaries and more job opportunities when you can read, write, and speak in both languages. However, this takes some hard work. If this came easily than anybody could do it. Fortunately anybody can be bilingual if they are willing to work hard.

4. **The grading scale is the standard OPS scale.**

There are three types of class work: **Practice, Formative** (35% of the final grade) and **Summative** (65% of the final grade). Formative are the minor assignments and Summative are the major assignments. These major assignments include chapter tests, major projects, and portfolio.

5. **Final tips:** Set aside 10-15 minutes a day to review your notes and vocabulary words. Make flashcards for vocabulary words. Buy a college level Spanish-English dictionary. Get help if you don’t understand something. Try your best and keep an open mind.

6. **Some things to keep in mind:**

   A. I am here to help you get the credit in this class, but you will have to work to understand and show that you understand the concepts in the class. I am generally available before or after school. If you need help or need to improve your grade in class come see me. I will work with the students before or after school before the last week of the semester.
   
   B. I don’t like food or drink in the classroom. I work hard to keep the room clean and I expect my students to do the same. Sunflower seeds are a pet peeve.
   
   C. Stay in your assigned seats and don’t talk when I am talking. It’s not fair to me or your classmates if you are rudely disrupting the class when I am providing the instruction that everybody needs to pass the class. These classes are generally very full of students. It is not possible to hear if several conversations are going on when I am instructing.
   
   D. Electronic devices can only be used when you have my permission. On tests no electronics of any type are allowed. Cheating and distractions through the use of electronic devises is becoming too widespread. Therefore, most of the time electronic devices are not permitted in this class.
   
   E. Show up on time and show up to class. I do keep track.
   
   F. Be respectful to yourself, your classmates, property, the classroom and your teacher. If I tell you to do something- Do it. If you have a problem with me or the class- See me outside of class. I try to be reasonable, but if there is no classroom management, there is no learning.

7. ¡Suerte!