

Lower School Spanish Course Descriptions

Kindergarten

The Spanish curriculum for kindergarten is largely based on oral development as students are introduced to the sounds of Spanish through carefully selected vocabulary giving students opportunities for successful communication in the target language. The program introduces an awareness of cultural similarities and differences of the Spanish-speaking world. Students develop and expand this awareness through songs, dialogues, role-playing, skits, puppets, and games. The structure of the Spanish program creates a safe and fun environment for students to learn.

First Grade

The first grade Spanish curriculum is largely based on oral development as students are introduced to the sounds of Spanish through carefully selected vocabulary, giving students opportunities for successful communication in the target language. The program continues to develop an awareness of cultural similarities and differences of the Spanish-speaking world. Students develop and expand this awareness through songs, dialogues, role-playing, skits, puppets, and games. The structure of the Spanish program creates a safe and fun environment for students to learn.

Second Grade

Second grade students expand their linguistic base through attention to proper pronunciation and intonation through individual and group participation. Student learning is enhanced through question/answer, role-playing, rhymes, poems, group games, skits, and dialogues. Word recognition and reading are developed through simple sound-letter correspondences and introductions of simple phrases. Cultural awareness and comprehension are emphasized as students become more aware of the world around them.

Third Grade

The third grade Spanish program continues to reinforce strong oral skills while making a transition to a more varied curriculum. A formation of solid listening and speaking skills are maintained as attention to reading, writing, and cultures are increased. Students following directions in Spanish and are comfortable asking and responding with common phrases. They are introduced to simple grammar rules in association with known words and phrases.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students have a developmental foundation that allows them to begin a more formal approach to foreign language learning. The five basic skills for second language acquisition (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural awareness) are emphasized in the content to maintain an emphasis on the foundational abilities. A stronger emphasis is placed on basic grammar structures, such as gender, the formation of plurals, and subject-verb agreement.

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade Spanish program continues to build upon the five basic skills for second language acquisition (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural awareness) while conversational skills are also emphasized. Students build on the linguistic base needed for developing communicative skills by employing question-answer structures in various realistic situations. The program introduces more complex structures of the language to expand oral and writing skills. Students explore and comprehend various aspects of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.