



## Spanish Curriculum

### Spanish Overview

The Philadelphia School has had a long-standing commitment to teaching Spanish to all of our students from preschool through eighth grade because of its importance as the second most commonly spoken language in the United States. Language learning improves overall cognitive skills and academic performance while also broadening a learner's global perspective. The language study supports learners to develop an understanding, respect, and empathy for languages and cultures other than their own, while also affirming the many languages that are spoken in our community. Our Spanish language classrooms are experiential, project-based, and exploratory. Our focus is on conversational strategies, developing cross-cultural awareness, and joyful engagement. We meet learners where they are and work to strengthen their learning strategies, resiliency, independence, and self-confidence.

### Early Childhood

In Preschool and Kindergarten Spanish we begin to develop our listening and speaking skills through greetings, movement, songs, active play, stories, and hands-on activities. Our youngest students practice greetings, explore cultural celebrations, and express their likes, dislikes, and preferences. They also describe people and things using simple phrases. Some topics include greetings, sharing feelings, counting, describing the weather and clothing, animals, and food. Learners practice active listening, participate by echoing and repeating, observe gestures, make predictions, and look for visual and auditory clues to make meaning.

### Primary Unit - Third Grade

Spanish language learning and developing cultural awareness and understanding, are at the heart of developing global awareness. Primary and third grade students explore everyday greetings, songs, stories, and cultural celebrations. As they become more comfortable with Spanish, students expand their vocabulary, increase self confidence, and grow in their self expression. At this level learners are able to follow simple instructions, answer questions, and state basic needs. Students expand their vocabulary and develop their pronunciation and fluency through oral drills, games and hands-on projects. The students are introduced to basic Spanish grammar, and engage in more reading and writing activities.

### Junior Unit

Fourth and fifth graders broaden their vocabulary and comprehension through listening, reading, writing, and conversation. Grammatical concepts are learned and practiced more formally. Oral skills are developed through conversations, interviews, skits, and games. Cultural explorations include movement and dance activities, singing, cooking, and the development of multimedia projects. Students in Junior Unit are able to communicate their thoughts and feelings in increasingly sophisticated ways using a variety of complex sentence structures.



## Middle School

Students in Middle School are able to connect Spanish to their thematic studies, such as Afro-Latino identity, the encounter between Europe and the Americas, and immigration. Group work, research, and presentations are all methods by which middle school Spanish students engage in this work. Students at this level are immersed in a more comprehensive study of grammar and language structure, including verb forms in different tenses. To improve fluency students work on several projects, such as writing and performing a series of dialogues and situational skits based on different vocabulary, history, and current events. Students learn to create complex sentences and to communicate sophisticated ideas. Writing activities include essays, poetry, dramatic skits, and plays. We often seek ways for middle schoolers to use their Spanish skills in real world situations, including traveling to predominantly Spanish speaking destinations. TPS's Spanish program is designed to complete the first level of high school. Most of our graduates place in Spanish II in 9th grade.