2026-27 Middle School Spanish Exploratory

Course Name: Spanish Exploratory

Teacher: Ms. Grano **amanda.grano@sanpasqualunion.net**
760-745-4931 Tuesday/ Friday 1:49 pm -2:39 pm

Course Description:
¡Bienvenidos estudiantes a la clase de Español! Welcome students to Spanish Exploratory class!
This course is designed for middle school students who are beginning their study of the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will develop foundational skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing while gaining an appreciation for the diverse cultures and communities where Spanish is spoken.
Geography, history, culture, art, and music will be some of the elements included in our lessons, as we learn about Spanish-speaking cultures and celebrations. Studying about food, music, art, and national costumes will help students develop language skills and knowledge about similarities and differences of Hispanic countries. Activities and games will give the students the opportunity to be engaged, actively learn, and speak a new language together.

Please note: This year, we may be **piloting a new Spanish curriculum**. If we participate in the pilot, students may experience some new materials, resources, activities, and learning approaches throughout the year. We will use student feedback and classroom experiences to help evaluate the curriculum.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students will develop foundational Spanish communication skills by learning to introduce themselves, ask and answer basic questions, describe themselves, their families, school, and daily activities, and use common classroom expressions and vocabulary. Students will build a strong foundation in beginning Spanish grammar, including sentence structure, nouns, adjectives, articles, pronouns, common verbs, and present-tense communication, while also developing reading skills through short stories, dialogues, cultural texts, and everyday Spanish materials. In writing, students will practice creating simple sentences, short paragraphs, and dialogues while learning to communicate their ideas clearly and accurately using appropriate spelling, punctuation, and accent marks.

- **Attendance-** Students are expected to arrive at class on time and prepared with supplies and materials. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to ask for a copy of the notes from that class and complete any missed assignments or quizzes.
- **Participation-** Students are expected to participate in all Spanish class activities, completing work and assignments. Students must attempt to speak Spanish as

much as possible. **Participating during all class lessons and activities** are essential in being successful in this class.

Types of assignments:

Spanish lessons: students will receive Spanish lessons in grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

- **Cultural Art projects** : examples may include Dia de Los Muertos Art, Art from Spanish Speaking Countries & Cultural Art, and Presentations.
- **Culture & Geography-** We will be learning about Spanish-speaking countries and their Culture & Geography. Students will learn where the countries are located and take geography quizzes throughout the trimester.
- **Student/ SPU Staff interviews:** Students will interview an SPU Spanish-speaking Staff member and present to the class about the person they interviewed. This can be a teacher, instructional aide, faculty member, coach, or school volunteer.. Students will need to take a photo with or of the person they've interviewed,
- submit their written responses (in English and Spanish), and present on their person in class.

Additional class information

- **Duolingo-** Duolingo can be done in class when primary tasks are completed, but additional time at home is suggested, but not required.
- **End of the year "Tortilla Making " celebration!** Students will learn how to make tortillas in our SPU garden. A $ 5 donation will be asked from each student to help with the cost of food & supplies!
- **School Community Opportunities:**
  Students can have exciting opportunities to help with Cultural school events, classroom projects in other grade levels, and be mentors and helpers for other Spanish students!

Required Materials

- Pencils, or pens, colored pencils, or markers, highlighters, personal headphones, 1 spiral notebook or lined paper for note-taking. Folders to keep in class for worksheets provided.

Grading Policy/Rubric:

Students will earn a letter grades for the following areas:

- **Participation: 40 points** are awarded for participation in class each trimester (class activities, small group lessons, games, work in class and engagement) Speaking in Spanish, asking questions, listening attentively, and contributing to group activities.
- **Quizzes: 15 points**(quizzes vary from each trimester including the unit of study and content being taught. For example, Geography, Spanish Vocabulary, Grammar, and cultural information from lessons, videos, and classwork). There will be a quiz every 1-2 weeks
- **Exit Tickets: 5 points** are short, end-of-class activities that allow students to demonstrate what they learned through vocabulary, grammar, reading, or writing.
- **End of Trimester Projects 40 points**- Students will choose 1 country to present on. Each student will need to complete a "webquest" research packet and a visual

presentation (rubrics will be provided for each project)
Any projects turned in late will result in missed points towards the end of the trimester grades

Test Retake Policy- Students may retake any quiz for full credit within 2 weeks of the original date. It is the student's responsibility to request a retake.
Late work- without an excuse will receive a deduction of %10-20 (10%= 4 pts per day, 20%= 8 pts per day)

Behavioral Expectations

- Students will follow school behavior and SOAR expectations
  All students must treat others with respect, especially regarding Spanish and learning about other cultures. Laughing, or displaying disrespect in the classroom is prohibited and taken seriously.
- Students will participate appropriately in all classroom activities, assignments, and projects
- Students will be prepared for class each day with materials and ready to learn
- Students will maintain good attendance and behavior expectations

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Ms. Grano room 405

5 points assignment credit

I have read and understand the course syllabus.

Student Name:_____ Grade/Class: _____
Home room teacher: _____Student Signature:_____

Parent name: _____Signature:_____
Parent/Guardian(s) email:_____