

Spanish Program Curriculum

St. Mary School

November 25, 2024

Spanish as a World Language is an integral part of today's global community and provides our students to be active lifelong language learners whilst preparing them to be global citizens, strengthen language acquisition and proficiency. The following curriculum is a framework for students in kindergarten through grade eight that meet once per week with class instruction on an average of forty-five minutes. Classroom instruction focuses on communication and the enhancement of native English speakers learning Spanish as a world language whilst maintaining the mission and faith of St. Mary School.

American Council of Teaching Foreign Language using the 5 Cs

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines provide a means of assessing the proficiency of a language learner. It is widely used in schools and universities in the United States and used a reference in support of the curriculum at St. Mary School.

Communication: Use the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Culture: Gain knowledge and understanding of the Hispanic culture.

Connections: Make connections with other subject areas.

Comparisons: Develop insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing the student's own language and culture to another.

Communities: Participate in communities at home and around the world by using English and Spanish as the target language.

Anticipated Goals for Grades K-8

Grades K-3

Content/Vocabulary - alphabet, greetings, shapes, colors, animals, greetings, calendar including days of the week, months, seasons, and weather, clothing, school supplies, body parts, family members, numbers (up to 100), identifying a person or thing.

Essential Questions

1. Why do people from different countries sometimes say, write, and do things differently from the way I do them?
2. How does Spanish help me understand who I am in the world?

3. Why is it important for me to learn another language?

Skills and Proficiencies - Recognize familiar spoken or written words and phrases. Demonstrate comprehension of simple oral, and written directions, commands, and requests. Identify familiar people, places, and objects. Ask and respond to simple questions, make requests and express preferences using memorized words and phrases. Exchange information using words, phrases, and short sentences about familiar and cross-curricular topics. Imitate, recite and/or dramatize simple rhymes, songs, and skits. Copy/write words or phrases on familiar topics. Read appropriate content and length of texts. Present basic information orally and in writing.

Grades 4-8

Content/Vocabulary - numbers (up to 1,000), describing a person, present tense AR, ER, IR, irregular, and stem-changing verbs, school subjects, transportation, foods, drinks, meals, past times, hobbies, and sports.

Essential Questions

1. Why is it important for me to learn a language?
2. How are attitudes, values, and beliefs reflected in its products and its way of life?
3. How can I get better at communicating in another language?

Skills/Proficiencies - Recognizing familiar spoken or written words and phrases. Demonstrate comprehension of simple, oral, and written directions, commands, and requests. Give and follow simple, oral, and written directions, commands, and requests. Identify contributions, places, and objects. Demonstrate comprehension of brief oral and written messages on familiar topics. Use digital tools to exchange basic information about familiar topics. Imitate appropriate gestures and intonation during greetings, leave-takings, and daily interactions. Ask and respond to simple questions, make requests and express preferences using memorized words and phrases. Exchange information using words, phrases, and short sentences about familiar and cross-curricular topics. Use basic vocabulary to create a multimedia rich presentation to be shared with an audience. Imitate, recite and/or dramatize simple poetry, rhymes, songs, and skits. Copy/write words, phrases, or simple guided texts on familiar topics. Read appropriate content and length of authentic texts. Present information orally and in writing.

General Skills Per Grade and Age Range

Kindergarten (Ages 5-6)

1. Introduction to Spanish alphabet and basic pronunciation
2. Common greetings and farewells (e.g., hola, adiós)
3. Basic vocabulary: family members, colors, numbers 1-10
4. Cultural awareness: Traditional Spanish music, dance, and art
5. Fun activities: storytelling, singing songs, and playing games

Grades 1-2 (Ages 6-8)

1. Vocabulary expansion: food, animals, body parts
2. Basic phrases: ¿Cómo estás? (How are you?), Me llamo (My name is)
3. Introduce basic grammar: verb "ser" (to be), present tense
4. Cultural exploration: Hispanic holidays and traditions
5. Interactive activities: role-playing, puzzles, and matching games

Grades 3-4 (Ages 8-10)

1. Vocabulary growth: emotions, sports, hobbies
2. Phrases for communication: ¿Dónde está...? (Where is...?), ¿Cuánto cuesta? (How much does it cost?)
3. Grammar development: verb "tener" (to have), possessive adjectives
4. Cultural immersion: Spanish-speaking countries, customs, and traditions
5. Engaging activities: skits, scavenger hunts, and creating bilingual books

Grades 5-6 (Ages 10-12)

1. Vocabulary expansion: school, community, environment
2. Complex phrases: opinions, likes, and dislikes (e.g., Me gusta/No me gusta)
3. Grammar focus: verb conjugation, preterite tense, and reflexive verbs
4. Cultural exploration: Latin American geography, history and holidays
5. Project-based learning: creating videos, podcasts, or presentations

Grades 7-8 (Ages 12-14)

1. Advanced vocabulary: abstract concepts, idiomatic expressions
2. Complex grammar: subjunctive mood, conditional tense
3. Conversational skills: debates, role-plays, and discussions
4. Cultural analysis: Spanish-language media, literature, and art
5. Authentic assessments: writing essays, creating news broadcasts, or podcasts

Additional Resources

1. Incorporate authentic cultural materials: videos, articles, podcasts, and social media.
2. Use storytelling and games to make learning fun and interactive.
3. Encourage students to use Spanish outside the classroom (e.g., language exchange programs - Costa Rica and ISSE).
4. Invite guest speakers, professionals and family members to share their Spanish-language experiences.
5. Assess student progress through quizzes, projects, and presentations.
6. Textbooks: "Realidades Spanish I." (Pearson),
7. Online platforms: Duolingo, SpanishDict, and National Geographic's Spanish resources