

Spanish Classroom Policies

In addition to MCS Handbook Rules and the Middle School Syllabus, we have a few rules specific to Spanish class:

1. **Listen with the intent to understand**--Show me by your attention and body language that you are engaged in the class, tracking with me, and attempting to understand as much as possible, even if you do not understand every single word. This means you are in your seat, facing me, with nothing else on your desk except Spanish supplies, and making eye contact. In order to acquire a language, you must focus on what is being said!
2. **One person speaks, the others look and listen**--Focus your eyes on whoever is speaking and respect them by not having side conversations. Again, listening skills are key to language learning!
3. **Support the flow of language**--I will create opportunities for class discussions and conversations and I'm counting on you to suggest fun, interesting, and personal conversation ideas! This may be simply talking about what foods you like/dislike or making up a goofy story together.
4. **Avoid English**—we want to keep our brains working in Spanish as much as possible, so do not blurt out comments in English or try to translate anything for classmates.

Grading

Each person acquires language at his/her own rate. Therefore, students will not be tested on forced memorization of vocabulary and grammar. Instead, Spanish class grades will be based on aspects within the learner's control: practicing habits of successful learners and communicators and frequent comprehension checks.

Categories will be weighted as follows:

65% Interpersonal Communication Skills Rubric

25% Other formative assessments (listening and reading comprehension quizzes, Habits of Strong Readers Rubric, Habits of Strong Writers Rubric, weekly writing assignments)

10% Summative assessments (scores from summative listening, reading, and writing assessments, documented in a portfolio).

Absences

Student presence and participation in class is vital for success. We do language learning activities in class that cannot be recreated. Please note that excessive absences *will* affect your overall grade because you will miss in-class content.

If you are absent, please watch TWO Dreaming Spanish YouTube videos (start with Super Beginner level) for each day you were absent and write at least (5) sentences in English summarizing each video. (So for each day you are absent, you will write a total of 10 sentences).

[Dreaming Spanish](#)