

Spanish Language and Culture

Students enrolling in these courses can look forward to learning the Spanish language through a combination of class-work, slide shows, music and video. The course focus is on building students' ability to listen and speak in Spanish. In studying the language, students will learn a great deal about Hispanic countries. The Spanish department organizes a trip to a Hispanic country every two years to give students the opportunity to put their skills to use. There is also a Spanish Club that meets weekly at lunch.

**Optional trips for Spanish students:
Spain and/or Mexico**

Beginner Spanish

Text *Así se dice*

This is an introductory course to the Spanish language. No prior Spanish language knowledge is necessary. The oral and cultural aspects of the language will be emphasized, and communication will be our main focus. Students will be able to describe and exchange information related to a variety of personal interests. They will also interact in Spanish in a variety of authentic situations. Written work is gradually introduced.

Evaluation: Listening and speaking skills, short written tests relating to grammar and vocabulary, participation, projects.

Intermediate Spanish Level 1

Text *Así se dice*

The oral and cultural aspects of the language will continue to be a focus. Students will also further their progress in reading and writing. Vocabulary acquisition continues through exposure to images and memory games. Students

gain confidence in narrating both in the present and the past.

Evaluation: Listening and speaking skills, short written tests relating to grammar and vocabulary, participation, projects.

Intermediate Spanish Level 2

Text *Dime Dos*

Teacher instruction is now almost entirely in Spanish. Students are given ample opportunities to practice speaking through pair and group activities. Learners will be able to handle most everyday situations in Spanish. Exposure to native speakers occurs regularly via audio and video clips. Reading and writing skills are practiced regularly. **Evaluation:** Listening and speaking skills, written tests relating to grammar & vocabulary as well as reading comprehension & writing skills, participation, projects.

Advanced Spanish (Fall semester)

Texts/sources: varied

This course is conducted completely in Spanish. Students will use their second language skills to understand conversations, lectures, newspapers, etc. They will refine their oral and written skills in both formal and informal situations. Students will also broaden their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Evaluation: The students listening skills, reading comprehension, writing skills and speaking skills will be assessed in both interpersonal and presentational contexts.

Students who receive 86% or higher in Advanced Spanish will be encouraged to write the AP Spanish Exam in May. During the spring semester, a weekly study group will meet to prepare for the exam.