

Taunton High School
Foreign Languages Department
Course Expectations for School Year 2015-2016
Sr. Daniel Rivera, Jr.

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We strive for Academic Excellence, Social Responsibility, and Civic Pride.

Dear Student:

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! You are going to begin the process of learning Spanish as a second (maybe third) language. Spanish is a rich and beautiful language. **Your enthusiasm and determination is crucial to achieving success.**

In this class, we focus primarily on achieving the academic expectations of communication and creative literacy. To do this, the five necessary components of language learning will be emphasized:

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading
4. Writing
5. Culture

The following is an outline of standards for success in this class. I ask you to review these carefully with your parents to ensure that you are clear on expectations and that you can achieve the most from this class. When you understand and accept these standards, please sign the attached form. Please be sure to ask me any questions you may have before signing.

Class Supplies:

- Three ring binder with 5-tab dividers (1 - 1.5" — See binder sheet)
- A 1-subject notebook or a stack of lined papers for the binder to keep notes.
- Pen, pencil, or other writing utensil.
- A red pen (or similar color) to use for self-correcting.
- Binder pouch for holding writing utensils (Not mandatory, but recommended).
- Spanish-English dictionary (Not mandatory, but highly recommended).

Class Rules

- Listen quietly when teacher speaks
- Follow procedures every day
- Arrive on time and prepared

Homework Policy

- Homework is given and checked on a regular basis.
- You are expected to follow the homework review, participate in its discussion, and make corrections as necessary.
- I will not accept late homework unless there's a **written** medical excuse, death in the family, or other reasonable excuse. "I forgot" or "I was tired last night" are not reasonable excuses!
- If you're absent the day before, you're expected to collect the missing work and turn it in the next day.
- If you're absent more than one day, you're allowed the same number of days you were absent to make it up, plus one extra day if you bring in a doctor's note.
- Occasionally homework may be collected and/or counted as a quiz grade.

Makeup Policy

- If part or all of a class session is missed for any reason, it is the **student's responsibility** to seek all work and notes missed.
- Students will have **5 school days** to make up quizzes or tests. After this time, a zero will be given.
- Tests and quizzes will not be made up during class time. Please keep this in mind if you cannot stay after school and are planning on being absent the day of a quiz or test.
- If a student's absence is prolonged for any reason, they may discuss an alternate makeup plan with me. However, it is the student's responsibility to discuss this with me immediately upon returning to class.
- If you require further help with the class, please schedule a time with me after school and **come prepared with questions!**

Grades Policy

Each term, the student's grade average will consist of the following:

- **Tests & Projects** 40%
- **Quizzes** 30%
- **Homework** 15%
- **Participation** 15%

The final course grade will consist of the following:

- **Term 1 grade** 45%
- **Term 2 grade** 45%
- **Final Exam grade** 10%

Good Language Learners

Studies have shown that the best language learners use certain strategies to be successful. Some of them are listed below. Please keep these in mind throughout the semester so that you can reach your potential.

The best language learners:

- ***Are motivated to learn the language.*** What are your reasons for studying Spanish?
- ***Stay organized.*** Keep all your materials neat!
- ***Aren't afraid of taking a little risk.*** Don't be afraid to try an answer!
- ***Are prepared with their written work and oral practice.*** This helps you to be more relaxed in class.
- ***Watch their own progress.*** Make note of your own achievements, and tell others when they've done a good job!
- ***Cooperate with their peers.*** Work actively with your classmates when working in pairs and groups. Help others, and also accept help from others.
- ***Repeat!*** Lots of repetition always makes you better!

Students, please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns with me directly. If your parent/guardian would like to speak to me at any time, they may call the Foreign Languages office at 508.822.5197 to leave me a message or contact me directly via E-Mail at DRiveraJr@tauntonschoools.org.

I look forward to a successful semester with you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Rivera

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES CLASSES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT NAME (printed): _____

CURRENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASS: _____

DATE: _____

Each student and their parent/guardian are requested to review the below items, and sign this sheet in acknowledgement of the foreign languages policies and procedures.

Student and parent/guardian:

- have read the Foreign Language Classes Policies and Procedures.
- have discussed any questions or concerns regarding the policies and procedures with Mr. Rivera.
- are aware of the materials requested that the student bring each day to class.
- are aware of the Classroom Expectations with regard to student behavior, including participation.
- understand that the use of online translators is prohibited.
- are aware of the Homework Policy (Homework is assigned regularly and may include any of the 5 five parts of language learning. **Oral practice is recommended daily.**)
- understand that it is the student's responsibility to seek any missed work when the student is out of the classroom for any reason.
- understand the Makeup Policy.
- are aware that Mr. Rivera is available nearly every day after school for makeup or extra help.
- are aware of some of the key factors that have been proven to be related to the best language learners.

I have carefully read the Foreign Language Classes Policies and Procedures letter, and I understand and accept my responsibilities in this class.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Parent/Guardian daytime phone numbers: _____

Parent/Guardian email address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____