**Spanish 1**

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

*Why study a foreign language?* Studying a foreign language can improve your English skills, give you a wider view of the world, help you make friends, help other people, help you get a job, and develop empathy for someone learning English as a second language.

*Why Spanish?* I am tempted to over-emphasize the practical uses of Spanish as a resident of the U.S. such as Mexico being a next-door neighbor, applying for jobs, finding native speakers to practice with easily. However, for me, most of the benefits of learning Spanish are just as enriching as learning any other foreign language; each individual has their personal reasons for being drawn to a certain language. What I **love** about Spanish is that it’s spoken in so many countries that I’ve gotten to know many cultures just by getting to know speakers of the Spanish language. I hope to develop this same cultural appreciation in my students.

*Curriculum*: Gone are the days where foreign language students leave the classroom not knowing how to speak a word. This course uses a communicative, proficiency-based approach. This means less vocabulary and grammar worksheets and more real use of Spanish in class. This year, we will be working towards gaining a **novice-mid level**. Here’s what your student “can do” with the language by the end of Spanish 1:

1. “I can communicate on very familiar topics using a variety of words and phrases that I have practiced and memorized.”
2. “I can present information about myself and some other very familiar topics using a variety of words, phrases, and memorized expressions.”
3. “I can write lists and memorized phrases on familiar topics.”
4. “I can recognize some familiar words and phrases when I hear them spoken.”
5. “I can recognize some letters or characters. I can understand some learned or memorized words and phrases when I read.”

**POLICIES**

*Attendance/Tardies*: I will follow Hillcrest’s attendance policy. All district and school policies apply to my classroom.

**MATERIALS**

* Pencil
* Pen
* Lined white paper
* 3 ring-binder
* Notebook

*Absent Work*: Look at the class website ([srtahawkins.weebly.com](http://srtahawkins.weebly.com/)) to see what was missed. Do not ask me right before, during, or just after class. Work due on the day of an absence must be turned in by the student’s second day back for credit. After that, it will be counted as late (see *late work* for more details). Submit absent work to the “Make-up”.

*Late Work*: Work that is not submitted by indicated due dates (not because of absence) can be submitted to the make-up basket up to two weeks after the due date with a 50% reduction. Do your late work. 50% makes a difference on your grade and helps you keep up with the class and not fall behind on tests. Submit late work to the “Make-up” basket. \*Work turned-in after it is called for is considered late. Pay attention and follow instructions.

*Extra Credit*: Students can participate in Hillcrest’s *Foreign Language and Culture Club* by attending at least 1 Spanish activity per quarter. Other extra Credit opportunities will be announced on the class website.

**GRADING SCALE**

A 90-100%

B+ 85-89%

B 80-84%

C+ 75-59%

C 70-74%

D+ 65-70%

D 60-65%

F 0-59%

**PARTICIPATION (35%)**

Credit in this category comes from in-class activities, material checks, participation points (speaking Spanish), and extra credit pesos. Students can make-up “calentamiento” by doing an exercise online in Spanish. Get a classmate’s phone number to call for help whenever you’re absent (or even present for that matter).

**HOMEWORK (25%)**

Any work that takes time or place outside of class is considered homework. Students who do not have a computer, internet access, or a printer at home will need to find another time and place to complete this work outside of class. Sometimes students have to work with other classmates and need to find a time and place outside of class to do this as well. Students are expected to check the website each night for their homework. Students will not be responsible for anything not listed on the website.

**ASSESSMENT (40%)**

Credit in this category comes from tests and quizzes. Quizzes are vocabulary and grammar based. Tests are Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking based. No retakes will be given.

**FAQ**

*Why do you always speak Spanish?* *How is my student supposed to learn when they can’t understand you?*

 For language learning to occur it is ideal that 90% of instruction be given in the target language. It would be easier for me to teach in English, but, paradoxically that would be the worst thing I could do to my students, because I want them to learn Spanish. Students are not expected to comprehend everything I say, but they are expected to listen carefully to what is said, trying to understand. I will use gestures, facial expressions, words that are similar in English and other clues. Students can ask, in Spanish, for help in English during class, or they can come during late start or after school for other help. All homework is announced in class in English as well as posted on the website so there should be no confusion about what is expected.

**RULES**

*1) Work until class is over 2) Be prepared 3) Respect 4) Safety 5) Be positive*

 Follow all other Hillcrest policies, classroom standards, and Ms. Hawkins procedures as taught at the beginning of the year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_4\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: August 2014

I have **read** Srta. Hawkins’s disclosure statement and hereby **understand** the terms and expectations for her class.

*StudentParent*

I understand that all **homework** assignments and make-up assignments are to be found on the class website srtahawkins.weebly.com.

*StudentParent*

I understand that **the majority of the class is conducted in the Spanish** language and will follow the tips for communicating in a foreign language.

*StudentParent*

Phone number to contact parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you have any questions, concerns, or problems with my class please first come and talk with me directly. I’m eager to talk about how I can better meet your student’s needs.