



September 2022

Bienvenidos!

My name is Ella Hayslett-Ubell and I am teaching 7th and 8th grade Spanish this year. I first got excited about speaking Spanish when I was a student at The Sharon Academy! I am thrilled to be back working with students in this wonderful community, and it is my hope that we can all inspire each other to be inquisitive and excited Spanish learners.

What Will We Be Learning?

We will start off by learning how to introduce ourselves and get comfortable talking about who we are and where we come from, which will complement the first integrated theme in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science of Identity and Place. We will also incorporate the books that Language Arts will be reading during the first trimester since they are so relevant to Spanish class! This will include learning the lyrics from an important song mentioned in *Return to Sender* and reading segments of *The Most Costly Journey* in Spanish.

There are so many different reasons *why* someone might want to learn a language, and therefore *what* they would be most interested in learning. We will take time at the beginning of the year for every student to reflect and share what they are most interested in learning in Spanish class. Do they want to be able to travel and order food? Be able to communicate with Spanish speaking folks right here in our community about the work the farm work they are doing? Learn about Latin American culture and holidays? Talk with new friends in Spain about their pets and favorite hobbies? I will use this information to help guide the curriculum throughout the year so that we can focus on topics that are of most interest to the students. As the year progresses and we get curious and excited about something, we can add it to our list!

The goal is for students who complete 7th and 8th grade Spanish to be able to enter into 9th grade prepared for Spanish Novice II.

How Will We Learn?

Hopefully, with a whole lot of fun! We will be doing a combination of speaking, listening, reading and writing, with an emphasis on speaking. We will be using many different kinds of media and art to support our learning, including music, video, and audio files. We will be singing, reciting poetry, dancing, playing games, celebrating holidays, and making culturally appreciative foods.

We will devote a small amount of class time each week to look at a specific grammatical lesson or question, but will mostly be learning the way we learned our first language - by listening, building our vocabulary, playing with the language, and practicing communication with each other.

Expectations

Learning a new language can feel vulnerable as we take risks, make mistakes, try new things, and keep practicing. It is important that we create a classroom environment where every student feels supported by their peers and teacher to continue taking risks and have fun along the way!

We will be coming up with classroom expectations and a classroom agreement all together within the first couple of days to shape this classroom culture. We will use the following questions and other targeted prompts to guide us: What does a *safe* Spanish classroom look like? What does a *fun* Spanish classroom look like? What does a *challenging/inspiring* classroom look like?

After we have set the groundwork for this supportive, judgment-free classroom, it will be important for everyone to participate fully, reach outside of their comfort zone, and speak in Spanish as much as possible.

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Please reach out to me through email with any questions, thoughts or concerns.

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Saludos,

Ella