

Dear Parent or Guardian,

August 23, 2011

It is my pleasure to be the Spanish teacher for St. Mary School. Spanish was my first language, as I was born in Cuba. It wasn't until my family moved to the United States and I was enrolled in kindergarten that I was forced to learn English through immersion.

My Spanish students must realize the importance of listening to learn a language. Translations were not provided to any of us as we learned our language. We had to listen to learn! Each student will begin the quarter with 35 points, which will equal 35% of his/her quarter grade toward Cooperation and Participation. Cooperation and Participation entail coming to class prepared with necessary materials, listening in silence, trying to speak in Spanish when instructed to speak, respectful attitude and behavior. Each infraction of the above requirements will result in the loss of one point.

Grades six through eight will have Spanish lessons weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays. Each student has been provided with the textbook Hola Viva el Espanol and will receive the accompanying workbook. These are used throughout 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. In order to be prepared for class students must arrive with textbook, workbook, notebook, folder, pen, pencil, red pen, and highlighter.

In the 8th grade we will practice communicating about feelings: hunger, thirst, luck, fear. We will spend time talking about age, telling time, what time you do different things, how long activities last, schedules, verb usage, and families. Practice of greetings, prayers, and conversations throughout the year will serve to build their confidence in speaking and comprehension.

25% of the students' cumulative grade is from test scores, 20% from quizzes, and 20% from assignments. Most of the written work is performed in class. We check the work together out loud. During that time it is the responsibility of the student to correct his/her mistakes. Often I then collect the assignment. A completed and corrected page shows me that the student was attentive and learning from his errors. A legible, corrected and properly headed assignment will receive full credit. I will also accept late assignments within a week. A properly headed page must include first and last name, grade and room number, student # according to last name in alphabetical order, and textbook page number. An assignment not handed in = 0 points.

Depending on the season we will investigate different holidays and cultural interests.

Assignments can be found in Homework Depot at www.stmaryschool.net, Homework Depot, **Specials**, Spanish. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns at gmoconnor1@stmaryschool.net.

I look forward to spending the school year sharing my enthusiasm for the Spanish language with your children!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gloria O'Connor

