



Course Syllabus  
Spanish Level I  
MYP Language B  
City Honors School

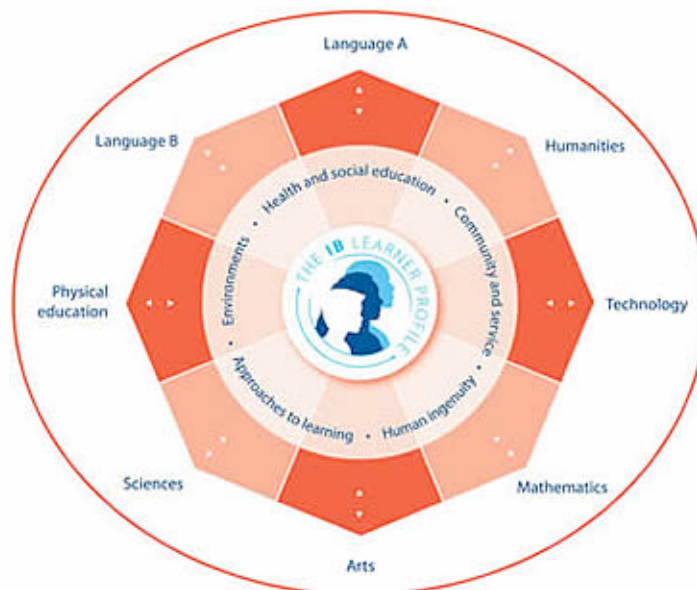
Sra. Melissa Johnson  
2009 - 2010  
Room 201



**Overview:** This course is designed for students to learn Spanish in a fun, non-threatening environment. Students will be stimulated to work together towards language proficiency in a cooperative atmosphere. The four language skills will be integrated in the presentation of new material and reinforcement of previously learned material.

The study of a world language easily lends itself to the appreciation of intercultural awareness and internationalism by its very nature. Connections and comparisons will be made throughout the year to the cultures where Spanish is the official language. This will be done through a variety of media such as news articles, pictures, discussions, magazines and other sources.

**OBJECTIVE:** The course objective is to become proficient in the four skills of learning the language through the presentation of thematic units in preparation for the New York State Proficiency Exam in June. Emphasis will be placed on communication, intercultural awareness and holistic learning. The IB/MYP Areas of Interaction will provide the lenses through which the lessons will be taught. ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).)



**INTERCULTURALISM:** The study of another language naturally lends itself to an intercultural awareness, which is at the core of IB/MYP.

### **Intercultural Learning**

- The process of becoming more aware of and better understanding one's own culture and other cultures around the world. The aim of intercultural learning is to increase international and cross-cultural tolerance and understanding. (British Council)

### **Intercultural Communicative Competence**

- ICC is an attempt to raise students' awareness of their own culture, and in so doing, help them to interpret and understand other cultures. It is **not just a body of knowledge**, but a set of practices requiring knowledge, skills and attitudes. (British Council)

**Texts/Materials Used:** The text for this course is *Buen Viaje*. Students must come to class prepared with this book as well as a 3 ring binder and any other materials they need to be successful each and every class.

Students are also required to purchase the Scholastic magazine, "¿Qué tal?". The subscription cost is \$10.00. It includes 6 issues of the magazine and individual workbooks that are used in class. The magazine reinforces relevant grammar, vocabulary and cultural topics in a fun and meaningful fashion. More information will be sent home regarding this.

### **Recommended Materials:**

- 1 (2-3) inch 3 ring binder (purple)
- 1 folder designated for homework assignments and projects
- 1 Spanish/English Dictionary (may be kept at home)
- pens, pencils, loose leaf paper, highlighters etc.
- anything you like to use that makes you more successful

**CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:** I strive to provide a supportive environment for students to express their views and opinions in a positive way that contributes to an atmosphere of involved cooperation. Students in the IB/MYP program aim to achieve the **characteristics of the learner profile** while in a calm and structured climate.

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable

- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

**Homework Policy:** Homework is assigned 3-4 times each week. When a written assignment is not provided it is expected the student study vocabulary and grammar points pertinent to the chapter. Homework is checked and corrected in class or by the teacher for a grade. Any homework that is not complete at the beginning of class receives a zero. Late homework is not accepted. In the event of absence, students may call the school or a friend to obtain the assignment. The student may also consult with me during homeroom to obtain missed work when the student returns. Incomplete or missing assignments receive a zero.

It is expected that you study at least 20 minutes a day. This may consist of memorizing or reviewing vocabulary or studying grammar points. If homework is completed before you get home then you should study, study, study!

**Grading Practice and Procedures:** The breakdown of the marking period grade is:

Tests and Quizzes: 25%  
Homework: 20%  
Projects: 20%  
Classwork: 15%  
Participation: 20%.

(Students earn participation points in the form of “pesos” for speaking in class and contributing to the class in a positive way. Pesos are tallied at the end of each quarter to be counted in the quarterly mark.)

## **Scope and Sequence:**

### Marking Period 1:

Common expressions  
Introduction/Review  
Unit 1 Describing people and places  
Unit 2 School /Numbers/ Telling Time

### Marking Period 2:

Unit 3 Shopping (school supplies/clothing)  
Unit 4 School/Activities at school  
Unit 5 Eating at a Café/Foods

### Marking Period 3:

Unit 6 Family Relationships / Home  
Unit 7 Sports  
Unit 8 Minor Illness / Emotion  
Unit 9 Summer / Winter weather and Activities

### Marking Period 4:

Unit 10 Attending Cultural Events  
Unit 11 Air Travel  
Speaking Exam Preparation and Testing  
Review

**Major Assignments and/or Projects:** Each chapter will include a project based on a cultural aspect pertinent to the unit. Rubrics will be provided detailing criteria of the project assessment.

**Extra Help Opportunities:** Student tutors are available. To make arrangements you may contact me and we can set up a time. I am available each morning before period one begins. See me to set up another time if needed. When in doubt, do not wait. Ask questions when they come up.

**Study Skills:** I will provide a variety of study techniques to help you become a successful language learner. There is no substitute for studying. It is important to remember that the more effort you put into something the more successful you will be. Can you answer yes to the following questions?

- Do you spend enough time on preparing assignments and studying?
- Do you have a designated study area and time?
- Is your study area set up with the materials you need for success?
- Are you well organized?

**Discipline/Poor Grades:** In the event of a discipline or behavior problem I will first address the issue with the student. If there is a strong concern on my part regarding behavior in class I will contact the parent.

If a student's grades drop below a B+ the parent will be notified with a progress report at the 5<sup>th</sup> week or by phone call. If a parent has a concern regarding student performance, I am happy to communicate by e-mail.

**Final Exam:** All students are required to take the New York State Proficiency Exam in June regardless of their status in the course. Eligibility to go on to Level 2 Spanish consists of BOTH a B+ in the course and a B+ on the exam. Completing and turning in homework assignments is essential to maintain a good average.

**METHODS OF COMMUNICATION:** Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns or to schedule an appointment. I may be reached daily, by telephone, written note or e-mail between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**Room 201 Tel. 816.3550 ext. 1201 E-Mail: [mmjohnson@buffaloschools.org](mailto:mmjohnson@buffaloschools.org).**

Please sign below acknowledging you have read and understood what is expected in Spanish this year.

(please cut)

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_(optional)

