

SPANISH 2 CLASS HANDBOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Spanish 2 is a course designed to strengthen the skills in Spanish 1 as well as prepare for your Spanish 3. It is a year-long class stressing effective communication through highly functional vocabulary and grammar. The class is fast paced and focuses on the skills of writing, reading, speaking, and listening.

My class relies heavily on the TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) method of foreign-language teaching. This type of class is dependent upon ACTIVE participation and develops fluency in Spanish through understandable Spanish language; therefore, the majority of class time will be spent in the target language. You will go through a seven-step process to internalize active vocabulary and grammar in real contexts through highly personalized and humorous stories. Also integral to this method, is actively reading in the target language. To this end, you will be reading extended versions of the day's story, spending twenty minutes per week reading children-stories in class, and reading short, comprehensible novels in Spanish. Your progress is directly linked to your level of participation.

CLASS GRADE: Grades are determined through rubrics using a 5-point scale: A (4), B (3), C (2), D (1), F (0). Letter grades are calculated using a weighted average: Speaking 20%, Writing 20%, Listening 15%, Reading 15%, Structures 10%, Vocabulary 10%, and Reflections 10%.

- ✓ **Final Exams:** If your final-exam grade is better than your class grade, I will use your final-exam grade as your semester grade **provided you are not earning any U's in Work Habits or Citizenship**. Final Exams are worth twice as much as a regular test.
- ✓ **Tests and Quizzes:** **All tests and quizzes are unannounced.** Individual section-grades are entered in the grade book for tests rather than a composite-test score. Missed tests must be made up immediately on day of return with listening and speaking sections completed after school the same day. **If you receive a C or lower on the vocabulary section of any test, you must write all new vocabulary 5x or more each until the next test. If you receive a C or lower on the structure section of any test, you may not use any homework passes until the next test.** Tests count twice as much as quizzes.
- ✓ **Projects:** You will be required to complete various projects on the various topics covered in the semester. All projects must be turned in with the grading rubric. If you are absent when a project is due, it must be turned in by another student or placed in my mailbox by 3pm. **For EACH project not turned in, the class grade will be reduced by one full grade. Missing one or more projects results in a U for Work Habits.**
- ✓ **Reflections/Electronic Portfolio:** Reflection is a major component of the class. These reflections will make up the bulk of the Electronic Portfolio. **Failing the Electronic Portfolio will reduce class grade by one full grade.**

WORK-HABITS GRADE: Work Habits is mainly influenced by your homework record, but overall effort in class, on projects, and exams may also be taken into account. 0 missing/late homeworks = O, 1-2 missing/late homeworks = S, 3-5 missing/late homeworks = N, 6 or more missing/late homeworks = U. Work Habits can be further reduced for lack of effort on any project or exam. **Earning a U for work habits will reduce class grade by one full grade.**

- ✓ **Homework:** Credit is only given for 100% completed assignments. Late homework is not accepted for credit, but still must be turned in to be eligible for Free Homework Passes.
- ✓ **Free Homework Passes:** I will give you a Free Homework Pass for every two weeks that you don't miss a homework assignment. I check the first Monday after the 1st and 15th of each month. You also may exchange 10 Euros for a Free Homework Pass any time prior to the start of class. **You are eligible for Free Homework Passes only if ALL homework has been turned in.**

CITIZENSHIP GRADE: Citizenship is a combination of classroom participation, daily-language practice, and any disciplinary actions. 20+ Euros = O, 10-19 Euros = S, 5-9 Euros = N, less than 5 Euros = U. Citizenship can be further lowered for bad behavior and excessive tardies. **I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST/STOLEN/WET/DESTROYED EUROS!**

- ✓ **Participation Points (Euros):** You lose 5 Euros for each absence, tardy, hall/bathroom pass, misbehavior, using English when not appropriate, and other classroom distractions. Any Euros lost **MUST** be made up by writing a 100-word essay in Spanish.

- ✓ **Absences:** It is your responsibility to make up any work missed during an absence. In addition to the work missed, you **MUST** write a 100-word essay using the chapter's vocabulary for each day absent. **You may not make up any work if you are truant.**
- ✓ **Tardies:** Each tardy results in the loss of 5 Euros. You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat working when the bell rings. Three lunch detentions will be assigned for each tardy after the first one. **Three tardies will result in the signing of a Tardy Contract and an N or lower for Citizenship. More than Three tardies will result in a U for Citizenship.**
- ✓ **Cheating:** Cheating is defined as presenting any work as your own original work when in fact in part or in whole, it is not. Although not limited to, cheating may be suspected under any of the following conditions: talking, looking at anyone's paper and covering your own paper during an exam or quiz, direct copying any assignment from any student, having a more advanced Spanish student or teacher edit your work, or using language translators. **Any occurrence of cheating results in an automatic U for Citizenship.** Please refer to the Student Parent Handbook for further details and consequences of cheating.

LATE, NO-NAME ASSIGNMENTS, AND MISSING RUBRICS: I only grade on-time assignments, work with name clearly written, and projects that include a rubric.

QUALITY WORK: I only grade quality work. Generally, I consider grades of A, B, and with the exception of quizzes, C to be quality. On quizzes, I consider only A and B grades to be quality.

CONSEQUENCES: Various consequences will result for behavior that is counter-learning or disruptive.

CLASS RULES:

- ✓ Please respect YOURSELF, others, and teachers at ALL times..
- ✓ Please refrain from doing other classwork until you are on YOUR time.
- ✓ You may drink in class at any time (provided it is a legal beverage! ☺)
- ✓ Please be sure to TURN OFF and PUT IN YOUR BACKPACK any cell phones or music players before you get to class.
- ✓ Although we all enjoy a good nap, please refrain from taking one OR APPEARING AS IF TAKING ONE in my class.
- ✓ Due to severe asthma, I do ask that you not wear strong perfumes, perfumed lotions, or other strong aromatic substances in class.

CLASS WEBSITE: There is a class website that can be found at www.benedictsclass.com. Here you may view your grades, check what homework was assigned, gain access to a Spanish web-dictionary and other Spanish resources, download extra copies of handouts, and much more. In order to access the website and download extra copies, you will need a relatively modern browser, preferably FIREFOX (free at www.mozilla.org) and Adobe Acrobat Reader 5 or greater (free at www.adobe.com). Check it out!

TEACHER ACCESSIBILITY: If you need help after school hours, you may email me daily through 9pm. Any thing received after 9pm will be responded to the following day. I am also available for help before school or during lunch. **Please don't wait until it's too late to ask for help!**

I WISH YOU ALL A GREAT SEMESTER, HOPE YOU HAVE FUN, AND WISH YOU MUCH SUCCESS!

Please read and discuss these rules with your parents or guardian and sign in the appropriate spaces.

I have read and understand Mr. Benedict's *Class Handbook* and fully agree to abide by its terms. I realize that I am responsible for the information that is contained in this document whether or not I actually read it.

Student Name / Class / Period

Student Signature / Date

Parent or Guardian Signature / Date

Dear Parents:

I'm anxious to work with both you and your child this school year. I strongly feel that excellent communication between the parents and the teacher is integral to a successful learning experience. Feel free to contact me by email or phone with any concerns or comments you may have.

In order to make communication easier, please provide any contact information below and also note which method of communication you prefer. Thanks for all your efforts and I wish you and your child a successful academic year!

Sincerely,

Scott Benedict

Name:	
Parent Of:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
Email Address:	
I prefer to be reached by <input type="checkbox"/> home phone, <input type="checkbox"/> work phone, <input type="checkbox"/> cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> email.	
Other Important Information about my child:	