

¡Bienvenidos a la clase del español 1!

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Course Overview: Spanish I content standards provide students the opportunity to begin the study of another language while introducing them to the study of other cultures. Basic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and culture are included in the course. Acquisition of Level I knowledge and skills helps students understand their own language and culture, develop insight into cultures other than their own, and participate more fully in the global community.

Source: Mountain Brook Schools Foreign Language Curriculum Framework

Overall Course Goals

All students will:

- 1) Learn to study independently and stay on task, both in class and with homework.
- 2) Take a comprehensive midterm examination.
- 3) Complete a final examination covering topics from the second semester and major concepts from throughout the year.
- 4) Demonstrate comprehensive mastery of all major concepts on exams and projects throughout the year.
- 5) Complete at least four oral examinations throughout the year covering major grammar and vocabulary.
- 6) Give at least one presentation before the class on an assigned topic.

Course Materials: Each student is expected to bring these supplies to class **each day** unless otherwise specified.

A. Supplied with fee money:

1. *Realidades 1* Textbook
2. *Realidades 1* Practice Workbook with Writing, Audio & Video Activities (WB / WAVA)
3. *Realidades 1* Guided Practice Workbook (GP)

B. Supplied by student:

1. three-ring binder notebook with paper and dividers
2. highlighter
3. pencil, red pen, and blue or black pen
4. spandex book cover (size: 'extreme') to cover textbook

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Classroom Expectations

All policies listed in the student handbook will be followed in the Spanish classroom. In addition, students are expected to meet the following expectations:

- **Be Honest**
 1. Be honest in all situations, no matter the consequences.
 2. All academic work is to be completed by the student alone, unless otherwise specified. Copying another person's work or using a translator, on-line or human, is never acceptable. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, and use of a translator, human or electronic, will result in a zero on the assignment and an administrative referral. Your character is much more important than any grade.
- **Be Respectful**
 1. Demonstrate respect for everyone and all property at all times.
 2. Work and converse with a positive attitude, and do not distract your peers.
 3. Listen and follow instructions given by Ms. Smith, and do not speak unless it is an appropriate time. Electronic devices should be turned off and placed in the holder at the front of the room unless otherwise specified.
- **Be Diligent**

Spanish is challenging, but with effort and participation, you can and will master it. Students should come to class...

 1. **On time:** You must be seated and beginning on work when the bell rings; otherwise you will be counted tardy.
 2. **Prepared:** You should come to class with *all* necessary materials and prepared to participate fully, making the most of class time.
 3. **Ready to work:**
 - a. Follow directions at all times and do your best to complete the work.
 - b. Take the responsibility for your own learning as well as initiative for helping the learning of your classmates, though not helping to the degree of academic dishonesty.
 - c. Be willing to take risks! To learn a language we must first be willing to open our mouths and speak, even if we think we sound silly or incorrect. We must all commit errors in order to fix them. We make a mistake, we fix the mistake, we better our Spanish, and then we make another mistake. This is a normal and natural process. Be willing to speak out in class and make grammatical errors, and then pay attention how to fix them. In this way you will not only be better prepared for written exams but even better prepared for a conversation on the street.

Consequences for not meeting class expectations are at teacher discretion, according to her best judgment, and may include:

- a verbal warning,
- behavior-specific consequences (*i.e. – If student continues to talk at inappropriate times, I will move his/her seat. If student draws on a desk, s/he will stay after class to clean it*),
- parental and/or coach and sponsor contact,
- detention,
- and administrative referral.

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Grades

Grades exist as a communication tool between teacher and student to let everyone know whether or not a student has mastered the material to be learned in that class. To that end, I aim for grades to be as clear and helpful as possible, so that you will know what areas you have mastered and what areas need some work.

Your grade will be reported in weighted categories. Each category represents an area of learning in Spanish class and will count toward a designated percentage of your overall grade. The categories with a brief description are listed here, along with what percentage of your grade will come from each:

Communication and Culture	45%	<i>writing, speaking, reading and listening in context, as well as cultural knowledge and applications</i>
Vocabulary	22.5%	<i>vocabulary knowledge and use</i>
Grammar	22.5%	<i>knowledge and use of Spanish grammar</i>
Engagement	10%	<i>practice, homework, participation</i>

Grades are available online through iNow. I update the online grade book as often as possible, usually *at least* once every one to two weeks. If you have any questions about grades posted online, please email me or make an appointment to see me.

Tests

Spanish tests have never been purely one assessment; they have essentially been several smaller assessments compiled into one test: a vocabulary assessment, a grammar assessment, and a communication in cultural context assessment. Averaging them together makes the grade less descriptive of what you actually know. Therefore, tests will no longer have one single, overall grade, but rather a separate score for each section, based on what category of knowledge or practice that section assesses. Each section of the chapter test will be entered into the gradebook separately, in the appropriate weighted category. This way, your grade in each category offers a report on what you know and what you are able to do in that category of knowledge.

Practice

Students will be expected to come to class each day prepared to actively participate. To that end, students will be given daily work to complete so that they are able to make meaningful contributions to class discussions and ask questions to deepen their understanding. Assignments may consist of the following:

- Workbook, lab manual, textbook, note-taking, and web-based activities
- Ongoing cultural project assignments
- Other assignments deemed worthwhile

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Homework

Your homework will consist of three primary activities per week: studying vocabulary (vocabulario), studying grammar (gramática), and what I am calling “¡Qué guay!” Each is described below. If these activities are done in class as practice, they may not be submitted for homework. You should submit appropriate documentation to me on the same day each week, which will be decided by your class. ALWAYS put your name and the date on your work, and keep an extra copy for yourself!

- *Vocabulario*: You must document at least 20 minutes of vocabulary study. There are several ways you can do this. We will compile a class strategy list of possible activities and manners of documentation. You will choose activities from this list, and you get to choose which area(s) of vocabulary on which to focus. This will be helpful as vocabulary is an important part of each chapter, and it is always recycled and cumulative.
- *Gramática*: You must document at least 20 minutes of grammar study. As with the vocabulary, there are several ways you can do this that will be available on our class strategy list. You also may choose which grammar topic(s) on which to focus. This will be helpful as grammar is an important part of each chapter, and it is always recycled and cumulative.
- *¡Qué guay!*: Each week, you should find something in your life that either connects to Spanish, reminds you of something we are learning in Spanish, or was made easier because of what we are doing in Spanish. This is called ‘¡Qué guay!’ which means ‘How cool!’ What interesting or real world application of what we are learning in Spanish class have you come across this week? Ms. Smith wants to know!

Participation

Participation is essential in the foreign language classroom. Your effort to use the language in class is the most important factor in you learning a language. For this reason, participation will be monitored and graded by occasional ‘pop’ quizzes. These will be brief quizzes of varying formats given in class containing questions about or application of topics addressed in class.

Other classroom policies

1. Late/Missed Assignments: Any late or missed assignment may be turned in for credit at any time, as long as it is still relevant or helpful and has not been rendered useless by its lateness. Weekly homework can be completed for 50% credit after it is due until the last week of the quarter.

2. Absences and Assignment Due Dates: If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, **it is up to the student** to turn in the assignment **on the day s/he returns to class**. If a student is absent at any point *after an assignment has been introduced*, that student is still responsible for turning in the assignment on time. Exceptions can be at the discretion of the teacher.

3. Absences and Assessments: If a student is absent on the day of an assessment, **it is up to the student** to make arrangements with Ms. Smith **within 2 days of returning to class**. After doing so, it is up to the student to be present and on time for the make-up test. Students who are not present for their make-up tests may be subject to disciplinary action. If a student is absent at any point *prior to* an assessment, that student is still required to take the assessment with the rest of the class, unless s/he has made prior arrangements with the teacher.

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In other words... *You are expected to be responsible for completing your own assignments on time. Tests, assignments, and project dates are posted in advance, in the classroom and online. Therefore, absence the day before an assignment due date, a project due date or a test will not excuse the student from turning in the assignment or project or taking the test.*

4. Retaking an Assessment: Students who wish to retake a major assessment may do so, provided they make arrangements with the teacher and complete the necessary “Retake Contract” (attached). Retakes will not be allowed during the last week of the nine weeks, or the last two weeks of the semester unless there is an extenuating circumstance for which prior arrangements have been made.

5. Technology Information: Technology is used frequently in this course, and students are responsible for knowing which sites to access and how.

- A. There is a website for this class through the MBHS website (MBHS home page → Directory → Smith, Weslie → Español 1). Test dates, assignments, and other important dates will be posted on the **calendar on the website**, and students should check this calendar DAILY. This calendar is also embedded on *Moodlerooms*.
- B. Students should regularly check their **school-provided Google email** account. (example@student.mtnbrook.k12.al.us) This is the account I will email when I need to contact students.
- C. We often use **Moodlerooms** and other websites for in-class activities and homework. Students are responsible for ensuring they have access to each of these sites, including knowing their usernames and passwords.
- D. Depending on availability, it is possible that we will use online textbooks and a class set in the classroom in lieu of assigning individual textbooks. More details on that will be shared as they are made available.

Communication

I want to work with you to help you reach your maximum potential in learning Spanish. If you need help or have questions, contact me! Here are some ways to get in touch me:

- My email is smithw@mtnbrook.k12.al.us. Email is the fastest way to get in touch with me.
- I am often in my room during planning times. However, please be aware that unless I am expecting you, I may not always be in my room or available during these periods, as I have other meetings scheduled for professional development or other committee responsibilities. I want to be available to help you! However, please communicate with me about when you are coming so I can make sure I am present and ready to help you. Here are my planning times:

2nd period

4th period

7th period

By appointment

**This syllabus and the attached contract are subject to change, according to teacher discretion.*

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**Each student is responsible for maintaining copies and records of all class work, notes, homework, etc. This may be done by maintaining a class folder on your Google Drive, using your binder, or some combination of the two. Please remember that you must be able to easily access any class documents when necessary! Here are some possible ways to divide your work (these may be folders in Drive or tabs in your binder).

It is advisable to keep a section for Important Documents (syllabus, contract, homework rubric, etc). Then, you may divide by...

General Categories	Chapter (Capítulo)	Class Categories
Notes	Cap Para Empezar	Vocabulary notes & practice
In-Class Practice	Cap 1A	Grammar notes & practice
Homework	Cap 1B, etc...	Communication & Culture notes & practice
Test Review	Semester Review	Homework & Review

SPANISH RETAKE CONTRACT

II. Study Reflection: Complete the reflection questions below. *Be honest - this is to help you reflect and improve upon your study practices, not for me to judge you.*

1. What did you do to prepare for the first assessment? ...
 - a. HOW did you study?
 - b. WHEN did you study? (What day(s))
 - c. HOW LONG did you study?
 - d. WHERE did you study?
 - e. WHAT RESOURCES did you use as you studied?
2. List what resources you can use both at school and home to help you study, stay organized, and adequately prepare for this assessment.

III. Stay Current: You MUST have turned in all homework and classwork related to this assessment, as well as attach documentation of three additional activities (details below) to this contract, and you MUST stay CURRENT on any new material. If you would like extra help before your retake, you are responsible for setting up additional time to meet with me outside of class.

IV. Make A Plan: You should complete a minimum of 3 different activities from our study activity list. These must be activities you have not already done for this material. List which activities you are going to do to prepare for your retake.

Study Activity			
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V. Signatures

*By signing below, you affirm that you are committed to the plan developed above and are dedicated to improving your understanding of class concepts. In addition, teacher and parent will commit to the time and effort needed to help lead this student to success on this assessment. **This MUST be signed and turned in by the date indicated at the top of the front page.***

Student: _____ Parent: _____ Teacher: _____

VI. Retake: Terms of this contract must be fulfilled, and you must turn in completed contract to teacher before you can retake.

Retake Quiz Date/Time: _____
(All retakes must be done before next major assessment)

Retake Quiz Location: _____

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”
~ Former Secretary of State Colin Powell

**This contract is subject to change, according to teacher discretion.*