



Curriculum Description

Cherry Hills Christian Middle School offers beginning, intermediate and advanced Spanish. *Get Real SPANISH* is a curriculum based on the author's journey in becoming bilingual. It has proven to be very successful for those who follow it. Below is a general description of that curriculum:

Beginning Spanish:

- Students will learn about the process of second language acquisition.
 - Students will begin the difficult task of building a Spanish vocabulary.
 - Students will learn to recognize the significance of present, preterit, future, command, imperfect and conditional verb endings.
 - Students will continue developing : (1) comprehension, and (2) conversation using present/preterit/ command/imperfect/future/conditional tenses along with what vocabulary has been acquired.
 - Students will be introduced to the "haber" tenses.
 - Students will do small amounts of reading/writing in Spanish.
 - Students will "travel" through Spanish-speaking countries and keep a journal.
- *English and Spanish will be used in class.

2nd Year Spanish:

- Students will continue to build their Spanish vocabulary.
 - Students will continue working with present, preterit, future, command, imperfect and conditional verb endings.
 - Students will continue working with the "haber" tenses.
 - Students will continue developing : (1) comprehension, and (2) conversation using present/preterit/ command/imperfect/future/conditional tenses along with what vocabulary has been acquired.
 - Students will regularly have reading/writing assignments in Spanish.
 - Students will study the countries where Spanish is spoken in Spanish.
- *Much more Spanish and less English will be used in class.

3rd Year Spanish:

- Students will continue to build their Spanish vocabulary.
 - Students will continue working with present, preterit, command, imperfect and future verb endings.
 - Students will learn to recognize the significance of subjunctive verb endings.
 - Students will continue working with the "haber" tenses.
 - Students will continue developing : (1) comprehension, and (2) conversation using present/ preterite/command/imperfect/future/conditional/subjunctive tenses along with what vocabulary has been acquired.
 - Students will have weekly reading/writing assignments in Spanish.
 - Students will "travel" through Spanish-speaking countries and keep a journal in Spanish.
- *Mostly Spanish and very little English will be used in class.

Get Real SPANISH is based on the philosophy that, in order to learn a language, one must inundate him/herself in the language and then use what s/he knows by communicating in that language as much as possible. Students will be guided in doing this using:

- grammar/vocabulary lessons,
- conversation,
- music,
- videos,
- games,
- Spanish Bible verses, and
- reading/writing in Spanish.

After introducing new vocabulary and new verb tenses, the above methods are used to bombard the students with the new information in context. Little by little, the new information becomes a part of the students' working Spanish.

Lastly, the students' grades have been divided into the following categories:

- Versos Bíblicos (Bible Verses) 20%
- Canciones/Vocabulario (Songs/Vocabulary) 20%
- Geografía (Geography) 10%
- Trabajos (General Assignments) 10%
- Agenda de Estudios (Study Sheet) 20%
- Cuadernos (Notebook) / Tarjetas (flashcards) 5%
- Español 5%
- Exámen (Final Exam) 10%

The “Versos Bíblicos” grade is based on the students' ability to recite the weekly Bible verse, and conjugate the verbs within that verse. It also includes a weekly translations sheet. The “Canciones” grade is based on the students' grades from vocabulary quizzes taken from the songs we listen to in class. They have copies of the songs that they can study. The “Trabajos” grade is made up of all work and other quizzes done both in and out of class. The “Geografía” grade is based on the quizzes over the geography of Spanish-speaking countries and any other geography/cultural activity done. The “Cuadernos/Tarjetas” grade is based on your student's having their Spanish notebook and verb flashcards organized and in class. The “Español” grade is based on your child's participation when required to speak only Spanish. The “Exámen” grade will be based on a test that will be given in your student's second day of Spanish class during the last week of the quarter.

Learning a language requires a lot of memorization. I am constantly reminding the students of this. “Cramming for the test” does not work. They need to spend 20 to 30 minutes, at least four days per week studying Spanish. I am giving your students weekly assignments/quizzes to both help them learn, and encourage them to study. These assignments are given on Monday. Please ask to see these graded assignments/quizzes. If your child is not doing well, make sure s/he comes in for extra tutoring after school. As many of you know, languages are quickly lost if they're not regularly used.

STUDENTS ALWAYS HAVE SPANISH HOMEWORK. IF THEY DON'T HAVE AN ACTUAL ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ, THEY NEED TO BE STUDYING VOCABULARY AND VERBS.

If you have any questions regarding Spanish, please let me know.

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