8th Grade Spanish Class Guidelines

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Course Description

This introductory Spanish course intends to introduce students to the process of learning a new language. In the first semester, we will move methodically to introduce a broad array of thematic vocabulary and useful phrases. In this process, students will learn to communicate at a novice level, using words, sentences, and grammatical structures that they have memorized (even if the deeper grammatical structure is not fully understood). In the second semester, students will have enough foundational knowledge to begin to increase their fluency to an intermediate-low level where they will begin to create sentences, ask and answer simple questions, and learn how to handle simple daily interactions. This course will also include lessons on culture and help students to see the link between cultural and communicative competencies. To this end, we will use music, art, and other multimedia resources to support language learning.

Textbook: *¡En español! 1A/1B*. McDougal Littell, 2000.

Procedures/Expectations

Students are expected to:
-Enter the class quietly
-Stay on task and only work on Spanish assignments
-Raise their hand if they wish to speak
-Raise their hand if they need to leave their seats
-Keep their desk area clean
-Be respectful to the teacher and other students
-Refrain from shouting out, throwing objects and playing with toys

During quizzes and tests, students are not allowed to talk, must have all items placed under their desks, must keep their eyes on their own paper and must remain silent once they have finished the test. For longer tests where some students may take the whole class period, students who finish early may read quietly once they have turned in their test. Students who talk, even once their test is turned in, or are caught cheating in any way will receive a zero.

Students who break classroom/school rules or misbehave will face the following discipline procedure:
1. The first offense will receive a verbal warning from the teacher.
2. If the offense is repeated, the student must complete a writing assignment that must be signed by their parent/guardian.

3. If the misbehavior continues, the student will receive a detention and their parent/guardian will be contacted.

Homework:
Homework must be turned in on the due date in order to be eligible for full points. If turned in one day late, homework (or any take-home work such as a project) will receive a 50% deduction. With very few exceptions, most assignments will receive a '0' if turned in any later than one day after the due date.

Absences:
I understand that illness and other unforeseen circumstances can cause students to be absent. Students have extra time to turn in homework equivalent to the number of days of continuous excused absences they have accrued. This does not, however, allow students to delay quizzes or tests that have already been announced in advance and for which they have had sufficient time to study. For example, if a student is absent only on a Monday, they still must take the weekly vocabulary quiz at the end of the week (vocabulary is available online). Students absent on the day of a quiz or test are expected to take that quiz or test on the next day they are at school. However, the test cannot be done in class and they should plan to do it after school. If there is a conflict with another class's test, we will make other arrangements. Students who are absent for very long periods of time will need to coordinate with the teacher through email communication to decide exactly when assignments will be due and when tests will be given. Students will be able to access homework assignments and class lecture PowerPoints on the class website.

Academic Honesty:
Students must turn in their own work and not copy other students. Instances of copying or cheating will be met with a grade of '0' and possible further disciplinary action. In a language classroom, the use of dictionaries, whether in print or online, is encouraged. However, online *translators* (like Google translate) are strictly prohibited. While large amounts of writing are not expected yet at this level, some assignments may tempt students into using an online translator. Computer translations are often quite bad and easily identifiable. I will know if students are simply copying and pasting English phrases into an online translator. These assignments will receive a '0' and are considered plagiarized, as students would be passing off a computer-generated translation as their own work.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following weighted categories:

Classwork/Homework	20%
Participation	25%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	35%

The classwork/homework category includes bell work, homework, and occasional projects. Quizzes will be given at the end of every section within the textbook units, and a vocabulary quiz will be given at the end of most weeks. Tests will occur at the end of every unit. Participation is important in a language-learning class and I expect students to be active learners. I will ensure a respectful classroom and ask that students participate without fear and recognize that making mistakes is completely acceptable and part of practicing Spanish. A rubric outlining how the participation grade will be calculated is available on the homepage of the class website.

Final Grade Calculation:
A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: <60

*I will consider the possibility of extra credit as the year progresses. However, any extra credit assignments offered will only be accepted if students have completed ALL other regular assignments. Extra credit is not intended to replace normal coursework and is designed to mainly benefit those students who are within a couple percentage points of moving up a grade level.

Please sign and detach to turn in.
I have read and understand these class guidelines:

Student Name Printed: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____