¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español 1 con Profe Koebel!

A language class is different from other classes. While learning English you relied on listening to adults repeat words, making connections between objects and words and then imitating the sounds you heard. Rarely did adults stop and explain grammar points or have you write down the new words you learned. You learned by speaking! This is how our Spanish 1 class will function. My main goal is to build your confidence in speaking and using the language. Our class time will be conducted mainly in Spanish and I will work with pictures, gestures, and conversations. You will need to pay special attention to these gestures and to repeat the phrases often. My main expectations for you are to practice, participate and use what you learn- that is the best way you will learn how to speak.

**Required Class Materials**: pen/pencil, notebook, 1.5 inch 3-ring binder, netbook FULLY CHARGED! You will not receive a book therefore you need to keep all the handouts organized in a binder.

**Grading Scale**: 88.4 - 85.5 B 76.4 - 73.5 C-

100 - 94.5 A 85.4 - 82.5 B- 73.4 - 70.5 D+

94.4 - 91.5 A- 82.4 - 79.5 C+ 70.4 - 67.5 D

91.4 - 88.5 B+ 79.4 - 76.5 C 67.4 - 64.5 D-

Your grade will be based on the following activities graded on a total point scale:

**Tests/Quizzes/Projects**

There will be a variety of assessments given throughout the year including, tests, presentations, dialogues, memorization activities. The assessments may include listening and reading comprehension, grammar, writing and oral practice. Partner activities and homework assignments will be incorporated into the assessments. In addition to tests, quizzes will be completed throughout the unit to help you assess your level of understanding.

## Participation and Oral Practice

Classroom participation is crucial to learning a foreign language. There are many ways in which you will be able to participate in class: partner activities, in-class speaking , Rapiditos, blogs (email dialogue), and sound files. Remember, the more you speak the more proficient you will be in the language. Partner work is also an important component in a language class. You will be expected to cooperate with your partner on a daily basis and will change partners on a regular basis.

## Homework

Assignments will be given on a regular basis, yet, not all homework will receive a grade. Homework is assigned for several reasons: to gain mastery, to review what you understand and what you do not understand, to give practice, and to serve as a review for the test. No late assignments are allowed for credit. All homework must have been turned in to allow a retake.

##### Absence Procedure

If you are absent, please check my website for that day’s assignment. Upon your return to class, check with your partner for any notes that you missed. Attention: If your partner is absent it will be your duty to take notes for them to copy and to collect any handouts from class. Homework assigned while absent will be due 3 days after you return to class. Make sure to mark “Absent” at the top of page to ensure full credit. Tests must be made up with one week.

### **Seeking help**

As you complete in-class activities and homework assignments throughout the year, you should be able to judge whether or not you need additional help. If you feel you are struggling, come and see me as soon as possible and we can analyze the problem together. I am free before school and through appointments. Should you need further help, we have a tutor program with Spanish 3 & 4 students who are available to help.

**Resources: Study sessions before the tests, Spanish tutor program, Study sites on website, Partner Study (15 min)**

**Keys to Learning a Foreign Language**:

TALK!!! Don’t be shy, the best way to practice your new words is to repeat them out loud.

PRACTICE!!! Make flashcards and review your notes frequently.

READ!!! Read authentic material any chance you can. Look for cognates and clues within reading.

WRITE!!! Copy the words over and over. Repetition assists memory.

**My expectations of you**:

1. Be nice to others. Respect others’ differences and do your best to create an accepting atmosphere. Put downs or derogatory comments in class will not be tolerated.
2. Take responsibility for your own learning. I will expect you to ask questions if you do not understand. In addition, talk to me if you would like more of a challenge.
3. Come to class prepared everyday. Be prepared physically with your binder, notebook, netbook, and pen or pencil. Be prepared mentally, ready to engage in partner activities and answer questions relating to homework or activities done in class.
4. Listen actively and take notes whenever necessary. Please be polite when asking questions and when listening to classmates and teacher during class.
5. Use Spanish as much as you can. Speak English only when you have exhausted every attempt to communicate in Spanish. The more you practice the language the more proficient you will become.
6. Demonstrate a positive attitude. Students that believe in their potential and the potential of their peers have a powerful effect on both the individual and group success. Negativity, whether spoken or acted upon, drains class energy.
7. Have an open mind. We will do many different activities in class. Be ready to try new food, hear new music, and discover a new world through language!

**Why should you study Spanish?**

1. **Better understanding of English**: Much of the vocabulary of English has Latin origins. Since Spanish is also a Latin language, you will find as you study Spanish that you have a better understanding of your native vocabulary.
2. **Knowing your neighbors**: Knowing Spanish will prove invaluable in speaking with other residents of the area who don't know English.
3. **Travel:** Yes, it is perfectly possible to visit [Mexico](http://gomexico.about.com), [Spain](http://goeurope.about.com) and even [Ecuatorial Guinea](http://goafrica.about.com) without speaking a word of Spanish. But it isn't nearly half as much fun. Doors will open simply because you speak Spanish, allowing you to see and do things that many other visitors do not.
4. **Cultural understanding**: While most of us can't hope to learn the languages of more than one or two cultures other than that of our own, those that we can learn help us to learn how other people learn and think.
5. **Learning other languages**: If you can learn Spanish, you'll have a head start in learning the other Latin-based languages such as [French](http://french.about.com) and [Italian](http://italian.about.com) or even non-Indo-European languages, since learning the structure of a language can give you a reference point for learning others.
6. **It's easy**: Spanish is one of the easiest foreign languages to learn. Much of its vocabulary is similar to English's, and written Spanish is almost completely phonetic: Look at almost any Spanish word and you can tell how it is pronounced.
7. **Employment opportunities**: If you're in the United States and work in one of the helping professions including medicine and education, you'll find your opportunities expand by knowing Spanish.
8. **It's fun**: Whether you enjoy talking, reading, or mastering challenges, you'll find all of them in learning Spanish. For many people, there's something inherently enjoyable about successfully speaking in another tongue. (adapted from About.com)

I am really looking forward to this school year with you. I will work hard to create interesting and relevant lessons to help you meet your goals in the Spanish language. Please stop in to visit me during my available times. If you would like, you may email me your question or concern at [lkoebel@plymouth.k12.wi.us](mailto:lkoebel@plymouth.k12.wi.us). Please see my website at <http://koebel.weebly.com>.