

## **¡Bienvenidos a la clase de Señorita Riordan!**

Welcome to Spanish II! I am looking forward to this year and hope that you are too!

### **Course Objective**

This class is designed to help you expand your understanding of Spanish through listening, speaking, reading and writing. We will also explore the diverse culture of Spanish-speaking people by discussing and experiencing such topics as the following, among others: daily life, health and well-being, technology, nature, holidays, music, art, television, movies, sports and the world of work.

### **Communication**

If you have questions or concerns, please see me in person or email me at: [mrriordan@pausd.org](mailto:mrriordan@pausd.org). I check email during school hours and respond within 48 hours. I am teaching 60% this year (periods 2, 4, 6), which means I am typically on campus three days/week. As such, it is vital that whenever possible, you speak with me in person. Although I will attempt to check email on my off days, that is not guaranteed. To obtain a quick response, please speak with me before or after class. I teach periods 2 & 4 in room 401 and period 6 in room 406. I will return to room 401 for tutorial.

### **Required & Recommended Materials**

- Textbook: Descubre 2 (required)
- Binder (or a section within a larger binder) / Notebook
- Notebook paper (required)
- Writing utensils (required)
  1. I often use color to highlight differences when giving notes. If you personally find that helpful, you may want to purchase colored pencils/pens for that purpose.

Take care of your textbooks! Students will be charged for any lost, stolen, or damaged textbooks. Every day, please come to class with pen/pencil, textbook, and your binder for the class.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on points earned on:

- Projects
- Assessments
- Class Participation
- Homework
- Classwork/Other

### **Participation**

As with learning any language, **you must speak Spanish to learn Spanish!** Classroom participation includes, but is not limited to, oral participation, completion of in-class assignments, exhibiting a positive attitude toward learning processes, and being a positive and contributing member of the classroom. All students are expected to participate in class to the best of their ability. I view my classes as learning communities. As such, I place a high priority on cooperation – it is your job to help those around you when you can. This does not mean providing the answer, but rather assisting classmates to figure out the answer for themselves.

Volunteering to speak will be tracked throughout the semester and applied as extra credit to the semester grade. Students can earn up to a maximum of 5 points/quarter of extra credit by volunteering to speak in class.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students missing class due to pre-planned absences (ex: field trips, sporting events, appointments, etc.) must have the work done in advance and turned in before you leave. Any test/quiz/presentation that may be missed because of a pre-planned absence should be completed before the absence. If not completed by the due date as specified by the teacher, you will receive a zero for that assessment/work.

I recommend that you have 2 assignment buddies in the class. Do not depend on friends in other periods, as assignments may vary. When absent, contact one of your assignment buddies to find out what you missed in class that day (notes/handouts/pop quizzes). **Write down what you missed!** When you return to class, be sure to copy any notes missed and to let me know what copies you need so that I can retrieve them for you. I have provided the space below to write down the contact information for 2 classmates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, you should be able to tell me what worksheets you are missing, not the other way around. You will have one extra day for each day missed to make up the work. If not completed within that timeframe you will receive a zero on those assignments.

### **Tardies**

Be on time! Class begins when the bell rings. Attendance for the full length of all class periods is vital, therefore, expected. Tardies are *extremely* disruptive to the class and can potentially result in missing a quiz or other assignment that cannot be made up (for points).

If tardy, sign in on the tardy sheet located near the door. Write your name, date and time (using the clock in the room) **legibly**. If you have a pass, please attach it to the **front** of the clipboard. Failure to sign in on the tardy sign-in sheet will result in an absence/cut. Students with excessive tardies will be required to meet with the teacher to discuss the situation and parents/guardians may be contacted.

### **Assessments**

Assessments will be based on class notes, textbook chapters, and other class work. Assessments will be given in traditional formats (tests, quizzes, etc.) as well as other assigned activities such as projects & presentations. Quizzes may be announced or un-announced, and are given frequently. Tests will always be announced and usually occur at the end of a lesson. Apart from pop quizzes, all written tests/quizzes missed due to an excused absence must be made up in P7 (Testing Center). After an excused absence, you will have one extra day for each day missed to make up any test/quiz. The listening portion of a test/quiz must be made up *with me* during tutorial within 5 days of returning to class. I can be found in room 401 during tutorial. It is *your* responsibility to take care of make-up tests before time has expired.

I will be using Schoology to administer many of the assessments this year. In addition, I have created various practice quizzes on a separate website that you may use to gauge your comprehension throughout the year. **No** test/quiz retakes are offered in this class.

## **Homework**

Homework will be assigned *during the week* and will be completed online. Homework is meant to practice concepts learned or reviewed in class. Because you will complete the homework online, you will receive immediate feedback on your work. If you do not score well on the homework, take the opportunity to review your notes and other resources and try the activity again. Please let me know if you are having difficulties with any topic so that I can better support you.

This year I am piloting homework-free weekends. The deadline for weekly homework is Friday evening at 8 P.M. and is graded on completion. Assignments (as well as the test/quiz schedule) are posted in advance on the homework board in the classroom as well as online.

Graded homework (projects, for example) *may* be turned in late, but the grade will be lowered 10% per class day unless an excused absence is involved.

## **Online Work**

This year I will be incorporating more technology into the curriculum than I have in the past. In addition to completing assignments online during class time, you will also be assigned homework that requires the use of technology – this will range from completing activities on the Descubre Supersite to watching instructional videos and taking notes on a specific topic. If you do not have access to the Internet at home, please make sure to organize your time so that you can complete these activities on campus in the library or in one of the computer labs.

## **Electronics**

I understand that many of you have access to electronic devices that can assist you with class this year. If you choose to have your cell phone with you in class, I kindly request that you turn the ringer on silent. In addition, it is expected that you will not photograph yourself, the teacher, or classmates, except with prior approval of the teacher & said students. When I am instructing, I expect that phones will be put away.

**At no point during the year should students make voice or video recordings of me.**

If you choose to bring a device to class, please use it support your learning in class rather than detract from it. No class time should be spent for personal technology use such as texting friends, reading or posting on social media, or uploading content to personal accounts like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. At times, I may ask you complete work online using a device provided by the school. On those occasions, all students must use the school-provided devices; personal devices may not be used.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism or taking an “unfair advantage” is considered cheating. Consequences for academic dishonesty are school-wide and cumulative for all years you attend high school. For further information, refer to the Student Handbook.

## **Extra Help/Tutoring**

I am happy to meet with you on an individual or small group basis to cover any concept with which you may need extra help. Please make sure that you have reviewed/studied the material thoroughly *before* asking for help. I am always available in room 401 during tutorial. If you know there is something specific you would like help with, please let me know in advance so that I might better prepare for our time together.

If you would like further help, you can apply for a tutor through the Academic Resource Center (ARC). The ARC is located in the library and tutoring is free. Some students choose to pay for private tutoring, if you would like to pursue this option I can make some recommendations of qualified tutors.

## **Responsibility**

You are responsible for your behavior: Excuses count for little. Be aware of the impact your words and actions have on your classmates. **Think** before you speak.

Take responsibility for your learning. This is *your* education, so be pro-active. Come to class on time, bring your materials, do your homework, ask relevant questions, and participate constructively in class activities. If you need extra help, come to tutorial.

## **Classroom Environment**

The classroom should be an environment where ALL students feel supported, comfortable expressing themselves and willing to take risks. I will NOT tolerate any name-calling, rude comments, personal attacks or any behavior that creates a hostile environment. Please notify me if you observe this type of this behavior. Repeat violations will be dealt with accordingly.

This year we are guests in other teachers' classrooms. As such, we need to be *even more* respectful of the physical space. Before you leave each day, push in your chair, check around your desk and on the floor; all paper and trash must be picked up before you leave. Additionally, I expect all desks, walls, and other classroom objects to remain free of any type of marks or graffiti. If the room is particularly messy I may keep all students in until the room is clean.

**Remember:** the bell does not excuse you, I do.

## **Special Note**

When substitutes are present, you are expected to behave positively and not cause disruptions. I expect that students treat substitute teachers with the respect of an honored guest. If your name appears on the substitute report for negative behavior, you will lose **all** participation points and will need to earn points back.

## **Expectations for Students**

- Get organized! Successful people are organized. Bring your learning tools to class or go without.
- Missing class: You should only miss class if you are *very* sick or have an emergency.
- When absent, contact your assignment buddy to find out what you missed. Students who choose to cut will not be allowed to make up any work for credit.
- Listen and be attentive: Prepare yourself for learning before you enter the classroom. *Asking for clarification is acceptable; asking for repetition because you were not listening is unacceptable.* Positive attitude and effort will be rewarded.
- Be prepared to move and change tasks quickly. Transitions between activities should take no longer than 30 seconds.
- **No eating, drinking, or gum in class (water exempt). Please leave beverages and/or food on the desk/filing cabinet inside the door when you enter the classroom.**
- Go to the restroom before class or during the 5 minute break. I do not excuse students from instructional time, with the exception of *extreme emergencies*. Again, plan your time well. If you choose to use the restroom during the 5 minute break, be sure that you are in your seat when the break has ended. Failure to do so may result in a lack of privileges.
- Be on time to class. Also, never expect to be released from class early.
- Personal grooming is not allowed in class.
- Contribute to the common good: This means respecting the rights of others and making positive contributions. Remember the Dali Lama's three R's: **respect for self, respect for others, and responsibility for all your actions.**

### **Academic Pointers**

- Never use online translators.
- Be careful with this class, it starts easy but gets hard fast. You will not pass if you don't take studying seriously or if you choose not to invest time and energy into the class.
- Finals are cumulative for the *whole* year.
- You must have a C or better to be recommended to the next level of Spanish, however, it is advisable to have a B or better.

### **Final Note**

I believe that everyone has the ability to succeed in my class. With consistent effort and a positive attitude towards learning, everyone will be successful.

