

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH - CURRICULUM GUIDE

textbooks: Abriendo Paso: Gramática y Temas

Mr. Celano

Google Classroom code: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement courses are like college courses at high school. They are quite demanding and require much time and dedication. Students can earn college credit if they receive a high-enough score when they take the AP test in May. Because most of the grammar and verb tenses in Spanish have been presented in the first three years of Spanish, AP Spanish focuses on reviewing these main areas as well as adding some finer points, and then greatly expanding vocabulary. In addition, students will practice essay-writing, recording and re-playing their voices (in the language lab), reading, responding to questions, and listening for comprehension - all of which will be required of the students during the AP test.

### B. EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Please maintain and radiate a positive attitude.
- 2) Be in your assigned seat when the tardy bell stops ringing, or you will get marked tardy. You may get/use only 5 of the white excused late passes from the attendance office - after that, every tardy is unexcused.
- 3) The entire class should immediately become completely silent when the tardy bell finishes ringing. We will then begin our highly-traditional **opening sequence** (more info. to come).
- 4) Please remain in your seat and silent unless given permission to do otherwise.
- 5) Get drinks and go to the bathroom before school, during passing periods, or at lunch. You will be allowed to use the restroom/drink pass only twice per quarter.
- 6) Absolutely no gum, food, or drink (except water) will be allowed in class.
- 7) I dismiss the class, not the bell. You will be dismissed after everyone is quiet and we complete our highly-traditional **departure sequence** (more info. to come).

### C. GRADING

1) Participation: Since one can learn to speak a foreign language only by speaking it, **25%** of a student's grade is for participating verbally in class. Participation is recorded by a simple point-tally system, structured so all students with their hands up will be called on once before any student is called on twice. Students receive credit for trying, not for necessarily having the right answer or a perfect pronunciation. Reading/saying homework/class work answers, volunteering to write sentences on the board, or suggesting corrections to others' work also count as participation. Students giving extraordinarily good, heartfelt answers will receive the highly-coveted **¡Dos puntos!** Participation is based on a curve by period.

2) Homework and classwork: one quarter (**25%**) of the overall grade. Assignments will be given daily and corrected the following day in class. All homework assignments must be handwritten on paper and be on the students' desks when I come around to check at the beginning of the period. If there is no homework visible, no credit will be given that student; I do not wait for disorganized students. Students are expected to correct any errors on their homework as we go over it. Occasionally homework assignments will be collected to see if students are correcting their errors. Papers with any errors on them after the answers have been given in class won't receive credit. Open-ended questions must be answered in complete sentences for credit.

All homework assignments are listed daily on the side board and our Google Classroom site. Students will not receive any credit for incomplete assignments or for doing the wrong assignment. Late homework is accepted for half-credit if turned in within 24 hours, unless due to absence, in which case students receive full credit, having one day for each day that they were absent to make up assignments. Late assignments should be turned in to the top tray on Mr. Celano's desk or (a photo/scan) in Google Classroom. If you were absent one day, turn in both the assignment assigned the day before you were absent, as well as the one assigned the day you were absent.

3) Tests and Quizzes: **50%** of the overall grade. Students will usually take one test per chapter and one quiz on vocabulary from each short story we read. Quizzes and tests are announced in advance and listed on the side board. Students have 1 week to make up missed quizzes or tests due to absence or the score will remain a zero.

#### E. MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND NOTES

1) You will need (access to) a good, unabridged (not little) English-Spanish/Spanish-English dictionary or (access to) a good on-line translating site. I find these ones to be good: [context.reverso.net](http://context.reverso.net) and/or [spanishdict.com](http://spanishdict.com). We must be very careful when using any translating source, though, because often there is more than one meaning for English and Spanish words, so we have to be careful to select the word with the part-of-speech and meaning that we want. [Example: Be careful with things like: *Tú testamento hacer pozo.*]

2) No make-up quizzes or tests will be given during class time or intervention - only before school, at lunch, or after school. With the new late end of the school day, before school will be the preferred time for make-ups.

3) When the tardy bell rings to start class, students should automatically begin doing the warm-up activity written on the left side of the front whiteboard.

4) To save paper, students may write keep adding warm-ups and homework assignments on the same sheet(s) of paper. If I collect an assignment, you can just circle the assignment I would like to see.

5) Spelling "counts" on all tests and quizzes; words must be spelled correctly to receive full credit.

6) If Mr. Celano cannot read a student's writing on a quiz or test, he will mark it wrong.

7) Please respect my belongings by not touching my desk, lectern, black chair, overhead projector, etc., or anything in or on them without my permission. My computer is for my use only - please do not touch it.

8) We will occasionally play educational games and contests. Please understand that we can't play them all the time - they are best used to review after we've learned and practiced something.

9) Cheating is wrong (whether the cheater and/or cheatee gets caught or not). Cheating is just as wrong for a person who gives or shows answers/allows a cheater to copy answers (the "cheatee"). Both cheaters and cheatees get a zero for the quiz/test/assignment/etc. they cheated on and a parent phone call.

10) Whether typing or handwriting essays/"emails," please always double-space so I can either make corrections or put abbreviated codes when I want you to make the corrections.

11) Students who did well in Spanish I, (2.1,) II and III may sign up to be tutors. More info. soon...

12) Students should read and know this curriculum paper completely and keep it safe throughout the year because it contains the rules and information they must know for this course.

13) Students should also read, be inspired by, take to heart, memorize, come to love, and live by the list of Celogans® they will receive shortly.

14) The student who now finds a secret paper with this period number on it attached under his/her seat will get either the highly-coveted ¡Dos puntos! mentioned above or a tasty treat - his/her choice.

15) Students should study daily in addition to doing the written homework. They should study both the current chapter's/reading's vocabulary as well as vocabulary from past chapters/years. With a foreign language, old words and grammar must be retained as new ones are acquired. Following are a list of hints to help you learn Spanish easier.....

## HINTS FOR LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- 1) Write the Spanish words for household or school objects on cards and attach the cards to those objects. Every time you see or use the object, you see the Spanish word!
- 2) Make flashcards: English on one side and Spanish on the other. Quiz yourself, or have a friend or family-member quiz you every chance you get.
- 3) Hold conversations with your friends or family in Spanish. If you talk to yourself, do it in Spanish!
- 4) Watch TV and movies in Spanish. Listen to Spanish-speaking radio stations often.
- 5) Practice Spanish with native speakers. Never be afraid to make a mistake. This is the way we learn.
- 6) If certain words are causing you trouble spelling, write them out 5 or 10 times each (just like in elementary school - because that's where we are in the new language!). With learning another language, repetition is your 'friend'! - and not only in writing, but also in listening and speaking. Repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat.....!

Please read and sign the slip below. Have a parent/guardian do the same. Then please bring it to class tomorrow.

(cut along dotted line)

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I have read the attached curriculum guide for Mr. Celano's class, and I understand all of the course grading, policies, and procedures. I firmly believe that learning a skill, gaining knowledge, and earning a grade honestly are good and right, and that cheating is bad and wrong. I also know that REV's policy is that students leave their textbooks in classrooms at their own risk.

STUDENT NAME (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ period: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_