Spanish 1 Course Syllabus

Message for Parents/Guardians: Welcome to Kimball High School and the 2012-2013 school year! We are dedicated to making this a positive learning year for all. In order to achieve this goal, the World Languages Department has established some basic policies. Every student has been made aware of these policies and is expected to follow them if he or she wishes to be successful. We would also like you to know what is expected of your student so that we may work together to help him or her succeed.

Course Objective: The goals of Spanish I are to introduce students to the Spanish Language, to equip them to function in a Spanish-speaking culture, to use the language in meaningful contexts, and to appreciate the role of Hispanic cultures in a global context.

Please note: A student must pass each World Language course with a C grade before continuing to the next level.

Textbook: Avancemos and ancillary materials. There will be no class sets of textbooks, therefore you must bring your books to class daily. You will not be allowed to share texts.

Materials Required: (on a daily basis): Textbook, binder or notebook, pens (blue and black ink only), highlighters, index cards and a composition notebook. We will be doing some online homework therefore, if you do not have access to the Internet outside of school please schedule to use a computer on campus.

Class Policies:

Homework: The purpose of homework is to practice what you learn in class. Homework calendars (Calendarios) must be filled out and be on your desk with your homework in order to receive credit. You will not receive ANY credit on a partially completed assignment or allowed to turn it in late. If you do not have your calendar, you will receive no credit for your homework. If you lose your calendar, you lose your credit. Homework will be posted. (BP 6145) No name, no credit, no exceptions.

Quizzes and Exams: Quizzes and exams can be made up only for excused absences. If you are absent for a quiz or exam, it is your responsibility to let your teacher know, on the day you return, that you need to schedule a time to make up the test. Please note: Make-up tests may be different than the class test, and must be taken within four (4) days of your return.

Attendance: This is an on-site course. It is absolutely necessary to attend class on a daily basis in order to be able to succeed in obtaining communicative language skills. Frequent absences will affect your grade, regardless of reason (i.e. sports, school activities, etc.). Students with less than 90% attendance will find it difficult to pass this course.

Travel Study: Leaving for an extended period of time will adversely affect your grade since making up work is not equivalent to classroom instruction, guided practice, partner work and more.

End of semester exams: Please plan to attend semester finals since we do not administer these exams before final’s week.

Tardies: The school tardy policy will be followed (please reference the KHS Student Handbook). Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings.

Class work: New material is introduced, practiced, and corrected in class. Consequently, if you are frequently absent, your learning and your grade will suffer. Students are allowed to make up class work missed during an excused absence to the extent that it is possible.

Oral Participation: You will never learn to speak or understand a language if you don’t practice speaking it every day! To this end, the class will be conducted in the target language (to the extent it is possible) and you will have activities that promote oral practice.

Projects: You will be doing various projects and must turn them in on the due date. If you are absent, please have someone drop off the project.
**Make-up Work:** It is a student’s responsibility to find out what assignments need to be completed upon returning from an excused absence. For each day of an excused absence, one day is allowed to complete the homework. No work will be accepted for an unexcused absence.

**Suspensions:**
In house suspension: You will not be given an extra day to make up homework so you must come by and pick it up.
Home suspension: You will not be allowed to make up any work, tests, etc.

**Cheating:** Please refer to the KHS Student Handbook.

**Late Work:** In order to get credit, you MUST turn in your assignments when they are due.

**Discipline:** It is very difficult to learn in a high anxiety environment. In order for us to work in an enjoyable, tension-free atmosphere we will all respect each other. Respect in this class is defined as treating each person with kindness, being helpful, motivating each other and, tolerating others’ differences and opinions. If you choose to behave inappropriately, disciplinary action will occur as outlined in the Student Handbook. Disruptive, unsafe, & disrespectful behavior will result in an automatic referral.

1. Please be in your seat by the time the bell rings.
2. Keep the classroom and desks clean.
3. Use appropriate language (no profanity).
4. No eating, drinking or gum chewing in the classroom.
5. Please remove your hat before entering the classroom and groom yourself outside of class.
6. Remember to be courteous and respectful to everyone.

**Consequences:** If you choose to behave inappropriately, one or more of the following disciplinary actions will occur:

1. Verbal warning. 2. Teacher-Parent contact
3. Referred to an assistant principal 4. AP uses progressive discipline.

**Grades:** Grades are weighted & based on straight percentage, not a curve:

- 10% homework
- 20% class work
- 70% assessment (tests, projects, compositions...)

*Please obtain your Aeries access code and look up your grades online. The teacher will not print copies of your grades.*

**Semester grades** are comprised of the two quarter grades and the semester final exam – each quarter grade will be worth 40% a piece and the semester final will be worth 20% of the semester grade. Grades will be posted at the end of each grading period.

**Grade Determination:** Quarter grades are determined by using a weighted scale of: 20% Homework and class work; 70% Quizzes; 10% Presentations

Semester Grade: **40% First Quarter, 40% Second Quarter, 20% Final Exam**

**Grading Scale:**

- 92-100% = A 78-79% = C+
- 90-91% = A- 72-77% = C
- 88-89% = B+ 70-71% = C-
- 82-87% = B 68-69% = D+
80-81% = B  
60-67% = D  
59% or less = F  

**Extra Credit:** Please do not request extra credit assignments, complete the ones that are assigned.  

**Other Information:**  
If students would like to discuss their current grade, they must set up an appointment with their instructor. Class time is the time to discuss personal subjects such as grades. **Please know that the teacher has the final say concerning grades.** 

*In order to communicate most effectively and to ensure that students take responsibility for their education, please have students discuss concerns with their teachers before parents contact the instructor.*  

**Office hours:** If you wish to see me privately, please make an appointment. You are always welcome to drop by before or after school but I cannot guarantee I will be in my classroom. Please remember that I am **always** available via email. 

Sincerely,  
Minerva Collins  
mincollins@tusd.net  

__________________________________________________________________________  
Please fill lower portion and return to teacher  

I have read the course outline and agree to abide by it.  

____________________________________________  
Print student name  
____________________________________________  
Print parent name  

____________________________________________  
Student signature  
_____________________________________________  
Parent signature  

____________________________________________  
Student email address  
_____________________________________________  
Parent email address  

Parents, please let us know the best way to communicate with you during the day: home phone, cell phone, email?