¡HOLA! Noticias de la clase de español ¡Bienvenidos!

(News from Spanish class)

Dear families of Third Grade Students:

**Welcome:**

Welcome to another great year of Spanish at Collegium Charter School! My name is Señora Rivera and I am excited to be teaching your student this year! We will be learning many things together. I look forward to spending each day with your student and teaching him/her Spanish!

**Curriculum:**

Our curriculum includes the study of basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The strategy of TPR (Total Physical Response) is a technique that we use a lot in third grade. This way of learning allows students to remember vocabulary via body movements, songs, mnemonics, and other ways. The first few weeks we will review some topics from last year such as common phrases in Spanish, greetings, numbers, and the alphabet. We will review the alphabet and syllables frequently to help students with their reading, speaking, and writing skills. We do write more than in 2nd grade, but I do not grade spelling unless students have a word bank . Our ultimate goal is to prepare students for fourth grade Spanish where they will have class every day and Spanish will count as a major subject.

**Our class:**

We have Spanish 3 times a cycle in the students’ classroom. I make copies for class from the “¡Viva el español!” books along with other materials that are developmentally appropriate for students this age. All students need a pocket folder and a composition book for Spanish class. Please keep everything in the Spanish folder. We will recycle unneeded papers in class. Anything you need to see will be in the take home folder.

**Homework:**

Frequently students will have homework to complete for our next Spanish class. Whenever we have homework, I ask the students to put it in their **take home folder** and the homework will also be listed on our class website (see below for address). The following class, I might collect the homework, we might go over it during class, or students may have a quiz based on the homework. Therefore, students will have a chance to get feedback on what they did at home. I do not grade homework, however, I will enter a zero (0) in PowerSchool under the category of HW to keep a record of those students who did not complete it and were not prepared for class. Not having anything at all in PowerSchool means that your child brought the HW and it was completed.

**Grading System:**

Students will have a standard grade (E, S, N, U) regarding “Appropriate levels of responsibility/respect”, “Effort”, and “Understanding Concepts.” Beginning in second grade students will also have a percentage grade in PowerSchool based on class assignments, TIAs, and FKs.

**Teacher Imbedded Assessments (TIAs):**

TIA’s are smaller assessments, like quizzes, which allow me to frequently check student understanding.

**Foundational Knowledge (FK):**

Foundational knowledge exams typically include more comprehensive content. A study guide with the vocabulary to review at home will be given for each FK along with a brief description of what the test will be like.

**Classroom Expectations**

* Follow directions the first time
* Raise your hand when you want to share
* Listen when someone is speaking
* Respect your teacher and one another

In Spanish class we use the following procedure to direct student’s attention:

**“Dame 5”- Give Me 5**

* ojos mirando (eyes watching) (oh-**h**ohs) (mee-ran-doh)
* boca cerrada (mouths closed) (boh-kah) (seh-rah-dah)
* oídos escuchando (ears listening) (oh-ee-dohs) (ehs-koo-chahn-doh)
* manos quietas (hands still) (mah-nohs) (kee-eh-tahs)
* pies tranquilos (feet still/quiet) (pee-ehs) (trahn-kee-lohs)

**Consequences (Consecuencias):**

1. Warning: verbal or visual eye contact

2. If same or similar behavior continues student names will go on the board and students will then lose recess time (or another consequence may be given). I am serious about student learning and at this level expect that my students will be serious as well.

¡Muchísimas gracias! (Thank you very much!) I look forward to a wonderful school year! Please feel free to check out our class website and to call or email for any question or concern you may have.

Señora Rivera

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We have already begun working on the Spanish alphabet and useful phrases students should know. Please remember to check your student’s take-home folder nightly for information or assignments. Also, you may find this information helpful.