

Spanish 4 / Conversation - Victoria Ferris

Clayton High School: room #140 or office #136

Available by appointment only: <https://bit.ly/RequestTimewSraFerris>

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¡BIENVENIDOS!

Estimados Estudiantes,

My name is Ms. Victoria Ferris. This is my eighteenth year teaching Spanish, but my third year at Clayton High School. The past two years were successful for me, so I am incredibly excited to continue to work with Clayton students. Learning languages has been a lifelong passion since I was young. I have lived in several different Spanish-speaking cities over the years, soaking in the nuances of language and culture. My undergraduate degree is from the University of Miami, where I majored in Latin American Studies and Spanish. I also have a Master's in Secondary Education with an emphasis on Spanish language instruction from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. My son, Brian, is a 17-year-old senior at Kirkwood High: I spend most of my free time with him and our family. This year my teaching assignments are: Spanish 2, Spanish 4-Conversation, and Intermediate Spanish.

Course Overview

At Clayton High School, we believe the study of another language should be an integral part of the education of all students. The School District of Clayton is committed to helping learners become linguistically and culturally competent. Linguistically competent students can proficiently communicate in oral and written language. Culturally competent students gain a knowledge and appreciation of other cultures in the global community. By studying in depth another language and culture, students embark on a journey to be successful world citizens who can function in a global economy and who develop skills to understand themselves and interact with others across the globe. Learning a second language enhances thinking skills and broadens future career opportunities and personal interests for all Clayton students.

This course is the fourth in Clayton's short, secondary Spanish sequence. It is a low, intermediate level course in which students will expand their use of the Spanish language and their understanding of culture from various Spanish-speaking people of the world. To achieve success, I expect students to completely engage during all class activities; in addition, students must spend about 20 minutes each night studying vocabulary and grammar notes or completing homework. In our class, we will use an extensive range of comprehensible, authentic resources to increase vocabulary, enhance skills, gain confidence and communicative fluency.

Objectives:

- to gain fluidity, fluency and confidence in Spanish conversation skills
- to increase the quality and richness of verbal communication in Spanish
- to improve the quality and increase understanding of vocabulary, grammar and syntax
- to research, discuss, understand and present various topics pertinent to Spanish-speaking cultures

Class materials to bring to class every day:

1. Pen and pencil
2. Binder or folder: I recommend that students have a binder to keep loose-leaf paper, notes, handouts, worksheets, quizzes, practice exams, vocabulary lists, etc.
3. Charged Chromebook or laptop

Every day you should check Google Classroom to access documents, study materials, and to collaborate. You should also check your email at least once per day because some items are too large to share on Google Classroom, so at times documents and resources will have to be shared via email or Google Drive.

Grade Categories:

Exams, Tests, Quizzes & Projects: 70% Practice and Preparation: 30%

Our classwork and homework will be assessed and marked in the gradebook for record-keeping purposes; however, most of the grades for our practice and skill checks will not be counted toward the overall grade, but rather students will receive feedback for improvement. It will be up to the student to use this feedback to improve assignments and prepare for assessments. I will schedule conferences with students for reflection and remediation in order to take advantage of opportunities to redo assessments.

Please note that Extra Credit will **not** be assigned or assessed. All students will be held accountable for knowing all material being assessed.

Grade Scale:

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|-------------|------------|----------|----------|---------|
| A+ 100 - 98 | B+ 87 - 89 | C+ 77-79 | D+ 67-69 | F 50-59 |
| A 93 - 97 | B 83 - 86 | C 73-76 | D 63-66 | M 49 |
| A- 90 - 92 | B- 80 - 82 | C- 70-72 | D- 60-62 | |

Academic and Behavioral Expectations

I strive to model the academic productivity and collegiality that I expect from my students.

Be Positive

- Come to class with the intent to learn and collaborate in Spanish: *pass along your positive attitude toward learning to others through pleasant, productive behavior*
- Give your personal best: *your success is determined by your consistent, strong focus and hard work*
- Learn from your failures, also known as “first attempts in learning”: *the only way to begin speaking a new language is to begin speaking badly*

Be Engaged

- Ask questions during class. For bigger issues, please meet me during Office Hours, or email me.
- Respond and reply when you are called on, even if you are unsure of yourself.
- Stay focused during class and keep up with the activities.
- Listen attentively and with the intention to understand. Listening is just as important as speaking.
- Study vocabulary and conjugation every day to help you prepare for class and learning activities.

Be Responsible

- Connect to class on time and begin warming up with our daily warm-ups.
- Try your best everyday.
- Contact Tech Support right away for any problems with hotspots, hardware and software.
- Complete assignments on time: keeping up will help you participate better in class and save you time in the long run.

The behavior policies and procedures established by the Clayton School District and Clayton High School will be carefully followed-- please read these in student and parent handbooks.

Being bilingual has brought me many personal joys and professional successes. Learning another language can be a valuable tool for employment and it is a great way to learn about people of other cultures. I feel it is my calling to offer these possibilities to students. My class will be challenging because learning another language is not an easy process, but I firmly believe that everyone can do it: I will do my very best to help anyone who shows interest and determination to learn Spanish. I look forward to working with you and I hope you will feel free to contact me for any reason.

Let's make this a great year, Greyhounds!