



Hispanic Heritage Month is observed each year from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, when many Latin American countries celebrate their independence. Established in 1989, Hispanic American Heritage Month is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the diverse Hispanic cultures existing within our communities.

We will be spending time in class learning about the cultures, traditions and geography of Spanish speaking countries. We will also be learning about famous Hispanic Americans during this month.

# Spanish Class Newsletter



September 2017

TO LEARN A LANGUAGE IS TO HAVE ONE MORE WINDOW AT WHICH TO LOOK AT THE WORLD –CHINESE PROVERB

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I'm Señora Prohaska and I'll be teaching your child Spanish this year! I'm Colombian, a native Spanish speaker, born and raised in the upstate of South Carolina. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina and my M.Ed in Languages at the College of Charleston. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year here at MPA and I'm very excited to teach your children español!

## THE FIRST NINE WEEKS

We will spend the next couple weeks building a foundation of vocabulary. We will also revisit concepts and skills learned in previous years so that students that are new can also begin building a background of that knowledge. We have been reviewing basic vocabulary and will continue to learn new phrases through our "Language Ladder". We will add to this list biweekly and continue to practice with it in addition to the first unit we will be working on.

I like to make my teaching engaging for your child, so interactive activities and games are integrated into all of our units. Music is also at the center of all my lessons so chances are you'll likely hear your child at some point in the year singing along to a song or two. Every class will also be learning throughout the year about the culture of Spanish speaking countries and all the richness it has

to offer. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will receive a grade for Spanish on their report card. Their first quiz will be on their first set of language ladder phrases. Retests will be allowed the two weeks before the end of each nine weeks either before or after school (or if another time is coordinated that works with the homeroom class teacher). I will post reminders of those dates on Class Dojo.

**Lastly, every nine weeks, I will offer an extra credit opportunity.**

## OUR CURRENT UNIT

We will begin learning a unit on animals. In this unit, students will be learning social and academic language patterns: greetings, idioms, colloquialisms, and nonverbal gestures. Students will also be introduced to nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions and demonstratives. They will also begin learning how to express emotions, likes and dislikes (written and verbal). In addition we will practice basic sentence structure, questions, statements and commands.

For K5 and first grade there will be more of an emphasis on introducing phonemic awareness and letter recognition. We will work on color recognition, introduce calendar skills, number recognition and conversation skills.

In addition to the animal unit, all grades will be learning about subject pronouns. The subject pronouns will be essential in our transition into learning about verb

conjugations in the upper grades. I cannot emphasize enough how important it will be for your child to practice their subject pronouns as this will be essential in understanding the different tenses they each fall under. Subject pronouns will be something we revisit and practice with every year.



## GET WEEKLY UPDATES BY CONNECTING TO CLASS DOJO

Class Dojo is what I use to communicate with you about your child. It allows me to post class updates, assessment reminders, videos and pictures of a few highlights during our class time together. I also post study guides, vocabulary and assignments on it so that they are also accessible at home when materials are forgotten at school. The application also allows for points to be awarded for positive behaviors and points to be taken away for off task behaviors. Students can also create their own logins to monitor their progress.

## JOIN THE CLASS ON Quizlet.com

Here's a great study tool for the vocabulary we are learning. Locate the class I have set up by searching for my username senora\_prohaska