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**Course :** AP Spanish Language and Culture **Instructor**: Mrs. Katie Pohl NBCT

E-mail: klumley-pohl@eriesd.org **Special help:**

**Course Description:** Advanced Placement Spanish Language is an intensive course that is taught in Spanish that requires students to improve their proficiency across the three modes of communication – interpretative, interpersonal and presentational. All students broaden their knowledge of the various cultures that comprise the Spanish-speaking world through the thematic approach of the AP Spanish Language and Culture course. Authentic resources in print, audio and audio visual form are an integral part of the curriculum. Emphasis is placed on communication with a rich vocabulary while mastering advanced grammar as they strengthen their communication skills in all three modes toward the pre-advanced level.

**Organization**

The course is divided into thematic units which are further based on recommended contexts and guided by essential questions. Corresponding cultural elements are integrated into the study of the units, and activities are directed with those cultural connections in mind. Discussion of the topics completely in Spanish is a requirement for this course. It is necessary that students have previously been exposed to advanced language structures in the courses leading up to the AP Spanish Language and Culture course; however, review of the mechanics is done within the contextual framework of each unit as needed.

**AP themes to be covered include:**

1. Global Challenges
2. Science and technology
3. Contemporary Life
4. Public and personal identities
5. Family and community
6. Beauty and esthetics

**Real-Life Language and Culture -**

Students must engage in at least one real-life activity outside school each quarter to enrich their Spanish language and culture experiences. Options include but are not limited to: attending an art exhibit, musical show or play; preparing a meal while following recipes written in Spanish; regular correspondence through email, Skype or Face Time with heritage speakers ; a face-to-face interview with someone who has immigrated to the U.S. ; viewing of important events involving target language speakers, such as a president’s acceptance speech or a national celebration of a country’s independence; visits to university campuses for special events; hosting a student from a Spanish-speaking country; visiting area businesses and learning about opportunities with Spanish; teaching Spanish to area elementary students, volunteer to read books in Spanish at the local library; borrowing authentic movie’s or books from Mrs. Pohl’s library; watching Spanish speaking television; or reading authentic written sources not required in class. Students must provide acceptable evidence of their engagement in a journal entry given to me by the end of each quarter. Use of Spanish outside the four walls of the classroom is a requirement to meet the Communities standard.

**Course Assessment**

* **Homework**: Given nightly. It is expected that students study nightly to keep up with course outline.
* **Tests:** Assessments will include integration of the modes of communication. Also tests on grammar and cumulative vocabulary tests will be given. Unit assessments are announced several days in advance.
* **Quizzes:** Frequent and announced in advance.
* **Writing Portfolio (Journal):** Students examine different types of texts, interpret them, and then use them as models with which to write their own. The students maintain a portfolio of all their written work in the classroom in order to chart their progress. This needs to be a 1 subject notebook. It will also include the Cultural Contact made each marking period from a choice of authentic suggestions. Students make entries in their portfolio summarizing and reflecting about the experience.
* **Oral Assessments and presentations**: Individually or in groups. Points vary. Formal presentations and simulated conversations will be practiced as they are given on the AP test and will be scored with the AP rubrics.
* **Class Participation**: Based on exclusive use of Spanish and ease of use. Speaking the language increases fluidity and accuracy. Risk-taking is rewarded. The goal is the communication, not the grammar. Use of English inhibits learning, weakens the process, and loses points.
* **Essays:** Throughout the course, students write a variety of essays- formal and informal (i.e. synthesis, persuasive, expository, answering e-mail or letter) using authentic listening and reading sources, such as documentaries, news reports, interviews, and newspaper and magazine articles**.**

**Assessment:**

Grades are broken down into categories- Tests/Quizzes 30%, writing and speaking assignments (presentational mode) 20%, writing and speaking assignments (interpersonal mode) 20%, reading and listening (interpretive mode) 20%, class work and homework 10%.

**Test Retakes:**

All graded assignments can be retaken for up to two weeks after the day they are returned. Students must have completed all homework and classwork leading up to the retake and must attend special help to identify areas of weakness before they are eligible to retake a test. All compositions are rewriteable as well as journal entries

**Special Help:**

Special help is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or any other day as needed.

**I will communicate with you by e-mail and by Remind 101 regularly! Join by texting @apsp19-20 to 81010.**

**If you every have questions for me, please let me know. Let’s have a wonderful year!**