

3rd-5th

Queridos Padres,

First of all, I would like to thank you for choosing St. Gabriel School and to introduce myself as your child's Spanish teacher. Me llamo Jonathan Harris and this is my fifth year at St. Gabriel. My classes are conversational in nature with no writing or reading assignments given to students at this level, except for the fifth grade project discussed later. Some reading and writing will be done in class with immediate discussion to aid in comprehension, but conversation is the primary focus. Students are only responsible for knowing the vocabulary that we discuss in class. A variety of activities are used to reinforce vocabulary retention but I need your help. All students are required to keep a notebook. They must bring it to every Spanish class. They should also take it home periodically and review the words as needed.

I have created a new website, www.senorharris.weebly.com On this website, I will have vocabulary, assignments, Powerpoint stories that we will read in class, and some news and vocabulary. I encourage you to check it periodically.

By the end of the last year students demonstrated knowledge of the Spanish equivalent of the following. Students new to St. Gabriel will be introduced to the following during periodic reviews:

- “Tengo” expressions (8 of them) hot, cold, hungry, thirsty, scared, correct, lucky, and I am _____ years old.)
- Numbers 1-1000 (30 by 3rd, 100 by 4th, 1000 by 5th)
- Parts of the room
- I like/dislike sentences
- We do times tables in Spanish to reinforce the math and the numbers (we start this in third grade when students start learning their times tables)
- How and why Cinco de Mayo is celebrated
- Letters of the Spanish alphabet and how to spell words in Spanish (this is specifically introduced in third grade and will be practiced throughout the year)
- How to introduce one another
- clothing items

And the following reviewed periodically since Kindergarten for reinforcement

- I'm hot and cold
- I'm hungry and thirsty
- colors
- identify items in their pencil box
- parts of the body (including but not limited to eyes, nose arms and legs)

- emotions such as happy, sad, angry, and tired
- weather (rain, snow and sunny)

Students should know months. They should also know how to say any day of the year in Spanish. This is practiced frequently so that it becomes automatic. They will also describe people and objects with basic adjectives.

Fifth grade will learn the following.

- telling time.
- students will also use nouns/adjective agreement and provide simple phrases like “red shirt” and “blue pants”.
- students will also use the two different forms of the verb “to be” and provide simple sentences.

Students at this level should be able to express basic needs and the items around them. They should be fairly proficient with the alphabet and be able to say their initials and spell short words. **In fourth and fifth grades, the alphabet should be memorized and we use it frequently to help in pronunciation** (for example: the letter “a” is always pronounced “ahh”).

We will read stories in class and “act out” vocabulary to aid in retention.

Also, fifth grade students will have a Spanish project this year. This project will focus on culture and will use Powerpoint on the computer. Students will share their projects with the class. These projects will be graded for their Social Studies class.

Cordialmente,

Señor Harris