



Spanish Program (Grades 4 and 5)

By Kelola McCrary



The Lower School Spanish program at OES aims to engage students in a joyful language experience rich with cultural learning. In the fourth and fifth grade Spanish classes, students are offered the opportunity to expand their practical vocabulary, begin to manipulate some basic grammar in context, widen their cultural knowledge base, and strengthen their language acquisition skills in preparation for continued Spanish study in the Middle School program.

***“Learn a new language,
gain a new soul”***

(Czech proverb)

1. Educational Objectives:

By the end of the year, fourth and fifth grade students should be able to:

- 1.1 Understand several age-appropriate oral texts in Spanish such as songs, riddles, stories, and directions for activities.
- 1.2 Read and write in Spanish to a limited degree.
- 1.3 Demonstrate an increasing awareness and appreciation of the cultural and geographic diversity present within the Spanish-speaking world
- 1.4 Reflect a positive attitude toward learning a foreign language.

2. Class structure.

Having the same class structure creates a valuable sense of both familiarity and security for the children.

- 2.1 Greetings
- 2.2 Warm-up (Transition)
- 2.3 Review
- 2.4 Presentation of Main Learning Concept
- 2.5 Activity (Application)
- 2.6 Closing Farewell

3. Multimodal Learning

While the class structure is quite consistent, there is a great deal of variety within this framework. Activities, methods, materials, and strategies are purposefully varied, so that students can learn via different modalities (learning styles). By designing lessons with the theory of Multiple Intelligences (Howard Gardner) in mind, opportunities are created for children to learn more about themselves. Students will have the chance to make the most of their inherent strengths, but will also be able to develop their other, less preferred learning modes.

4. Cultural Competence

Language is culture. The study of language is infinitely enhanced by the study of culture. Spanish, as the second most spoken language in the world, offers a broad spectrum of cultural knowledge. Students in the fourth and fifth grades will be learning about some of the most widely recognized holidays and customs in the Spanish-speaking world.

5. Communicative Approach

Above all, communication should be meaningful. For that reason, words and expressions need to be taught in context, so that students value the *usefulness* of the words they are acquiring. The successful communication of an idea in Spanish is more important than its absolute perfection. In fact, mistakes are a fundamental part of class participation!

6. New Materials

For fourth graders, we will be using a new Spanish program from the *¡Viva el español!* series (Sistema C) produced by McGraw-Hill, while fifth graders will be using the *¡Hola!* textbook and supporting materials from the same series. All students will be collecting their materials in a keepsake binder that is theirs to take home at the end of the year, offering a written portfolio of their development and growing knowledge base in Spanish.



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