

Spanish 1B (Grades 6, 7, 8)  
(2011-2012)

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#### Course Description

Spanish I-B is a continuation of Spanish I-A. It is designed to make language-learning a fun and meaningful experience in students' lives. The course is based on the belief that the purpose of learning Spanish is to communicate with the people who speak it and to understand their cultures. Students learn to communicate real ideas for a real purpose while learning new vocabulary and grammar in a practical context. Vocabulary topics formally presented are: bedroom items, rooms in a house and chores, clothes-shopping with prices, plans and preferences, gift-giving, vacationing, the environment--combined with recycling and volunteer work, the world of entertainment and technology, giving directions, expressing needs, and opinions and reactions. New grammatical structures formally learned are: irregular and stem-changing verbs in the present tense, the present progressive tense, affirmative commands, regular preterite tense verb conjugations, comparative and superlative adjectives, adverbs of time and place, and direct and indirect object pronouns. Many additional concepts and expressions are introduced in our daily Spanish conversations. Students are often able to reproduce even these untested items in speech and essay writing. A group of exchange students from Mexico attend Holland Hall (including Spanish classes) for two months in the fall semester. This first-hand experience with the people, language and culture of Mexico greatly enhances the learning process as students interact both in and outside of the Spanish classroom.

#### Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

Students understand the Spanish spoken in class (teacher, classmates, DVD's and CD's).  
Students respond in Spanish phrases with understandable pronunciation.  
Students read dialogues and paragraphs about familiar themes with solid understanding.  
Students write coherent Spanish sentences using learned Spanish vocabulary.  
Students apply learned grammar concepts accurately in controlled written exercises.

#### Preparation for Class/Course Materials

The second half of the *Realidades* textbook (Prentice Hall), the *Writing, Audio & Video Workbook* and the *Practice Workbook* are the basic components. Support materials include the *Realidades* audio CD program, the corresponding video series and internet-based activities ([www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)). Additional pictures and props along with techniques from the Total Physical Response method are used daily to help make the language-learning process as authentic as possible.

#### Methods of Instruction

All new language is introduced initially using only Spanish along with gestures, movements, pictures, role-play, music, story telling and props. Students discover grammatical patterns and the meanings of new words by matching visual clues with what they hear, see and experience. *Research shows that students are much more likely to retain and apply new words and phrases when they are guided to make sense of what they are hearing, as opposed to just memorizing rules presented by the teacher.* In each lesson, we change the focus often

to keep everyone alert, and to give opportunity to each of the multiple learning styles. Students answer teacher questions in unison and individually, and engage in extensive paired-practice and small group communicative activities. Although listening and speaking are highly emphasized, many activities also involve reading and writing.

#### Assessment

Students are evaluated during class as they participate in activities involving the four language-learning skills; speaking, reading, listening and writing. Attentiveness, auditory and oral participation and daily preparation are also taken into account in the assessment process. Grades are earned through homework as well, and in the case of a project done in or out of class students earn points based on a rubric addressing all facets of language learning, from oral participation to listening comprehension or writing. Exams are administered at the end of each unit of study, being preceded by brief quizzes which focus on individual grammar skills or topics. All Spanish I-B students also take the National Spanish Exam in March.

#### Projected Course Schedule

The course has 4 major units of study and is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders who have taken Spanish I-A, or a comparable course at another school. Units include: The Home, Shopping Fun, Travel Experiences, and Entertainment/Technology. Each unit lasts six to seven weeks.