

**Spanish Language Guidelines
For High Schools**

Diocese of Tucson
June 2008

Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical. Children who come to school from non-English backgrounds should also have opportunities to develop further proficiencies in their first language.

Statement of Philosophy
Standards of Foreign Language Learning

Introduction

While a detailed course by course curriculum is not provided in this document, the national standards offer a guideline to ensure that content and language experience is provided in our classrooms. As our world continues to grow closer through commerce, travel, and technology, it is imperative that our students broaden their cultural insights and gain a better perspective of language and heritage. Government, business, and industry need people with world language skills; and in our part of the world, Spanish is the predominant second language. Therefore, that which follows will provide a broad framework for teachers of Spanish in our high schools.

National Foreign Language Standards

Communication

Communication in Languages Other than English

- Standard 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Standard 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
- Standard 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Cultures

Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

- Standard 2.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
- Standard 2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture being studied.

Connections

Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

- Standard 3.1: Students reinforce and further develop their knowledge of other disciplines through foreign language.
- Standard 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

Comparisons

Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture

- Standard 4.1: Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
- Standard 4.2: Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Communities

Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home and Around the World

- Standard 5.1: Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- Standard 5.2: Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. Allen Press, Inc. Lawrence, KS. 2006.

Suggested Course Objectives and Content

Spanish I

Students begin to develop listening comprehension and speaking abilities needed for normal conversation. They will read simple, non-technical literature and emphasis will be placed on grammar in student writing. Students will begin to develop a sensitivity to the value systems and culture of Spanish-speakers. The themes of personal and family life, school, and social and community life will be explored.

Spanish II

Continuing to work toward a higher level of audio-lingual skill, students will imitate and repeat the target language. Students will begin to develop longer, more complex sentences, practice their speaking, and develop more complex reading skills and vocabulary development while cultural matter is being introduced. Students will focus on the topics of being a family member, a school member, and those things which interest them as teenagers.

Spanish III

This course will offer our students a study of advanced grammar and use of this in written essays, oral presentations, short stories and other literary works. Vocabulary units are extensive and further refinement of previously learned language skills are refined. Study in this course will be focused on rights and responsibilities, their future plans, environment and teen culture, and the humanities.

Spanish IV

The priority of this language course is to develop the students' communication skills by using the language in various situations, formal and informal. The course will continue to build on the students' knowledge of Spanish in the four critical skill areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Further, an appreciation for the culture, history, art, and literature of the Spanish-speaking world will be developed. Topics and themes will include social issues, science, globalization, communication and economy.

