



¡Hola familias de Obama y bienvenido a mi clase de español!

My name is Sr. Roa and this year I will be teaching Spanish 10 IBMYP. This is my sixth year at Obama (14th year overall) and I am excited about the prospects for this year. Last year, I thought the students were really challenged to honestly communicate in Spanish and I hope to pick up from there. I trust that this letter will serve as not only a guide to my class, but as an introduction to my pedagogical practices.

Course Description

Spanish 10 builds upon everything that your student has been studying during their past years of Spanish instruction. We will focus on developing speaking, listening, writing and reading skills. Although we will work through these skills in Spanish, the principles and strategies we use in class will be useful across the curriculum, and will serve to make your student a better learner.

During this year, we will also use a textbook and many of accompanying ancillary materials. Additionally, I will always try to incorporate authentic materials, such as topical news stories, magazine articles, television shows, movies and artwork from Spanish-speaking countries. These materials will be used to expand their knowledge and global perspective.

Course Outline

After a short review period, the year will be broken into thematic units. Some themes that we will focus on this year are current issues in the Latino world, the environment, health, talking about celebrations or who/what is in your community. Each theme will span about 2 -3 weeks and will be centered on these core concepts:

- Communicating in Spanish in every way
- Understanding and reflecting upon grade level readings
- Using new and learned grammatical structures in context
- Working individually and as a group member
- Demonstrating a cultural awareness and sensitivity towards Latino and Spanish cultures
- Expressing one's thought with accuracy, clarity and an appropriate level of fluency
- Exploring new strategies and methods that can enhance meaning (spoken or written)

Grading

- **Reading/Writing Exams – 20%**
 - Quizzes, responding to prompts, level appropriate texts, unit tests. All assessments will be graded using IBMYP Rubrics (see more below)



- **Oral/Listening Assessments** –40%
 - All assessments will be graded using IBMYP Rubrics (see more below)
 - These assessments are designed to prepare students for the PPS Oral Exams in 10th grade, as well as for the IBDP classes in 11th and 12th grade, and the IBDP Exam at the close of your child's senior year. They will be administered at least once per unit, via:
 - language software
 - interviews with the teacher, both individually and in small groups
 - presentations
 - Interpersonal communications
- **Participation**– 30%
 - Engagement and effort in activities, group work, staying in Spanish
- **Homework** – 10% (will be given 3-4 times a week)
- Twice a marking period students will be given a deadline date for make-up work. Any make-up work will be a 60% if completed to standard. Any work handed in after the stated date will not be accepted and **NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE OFFERED.**

Materials

Students will need these every day:

- A writing utensil
- Agenda Book
- Binder/Notebook – I prefer that students have **binders** since it is easier to add and remove papers and to store worksheets and readings. These binders/notebooks will be checked at the end of every quarter.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- ...be willing to make mistakes. The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually fear you will make one. (E. Hubbard)
- ...be on time
- ...be prepared for every class.
- ...come with an open mind and be willing to experience new cultures.
- ...be respectful of others.
- ...not use their cell phones in any way.
- ...have some fun.



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Communication

The best way to reach me is through e-mail (broa1@pghboe.net). I check my inbox throughout the day and during weekends. If you have any concerns about an assignment given, grade or just want an update on your child, please feel free to contact me anytime. You can also leave a voice message at (412) 529-7525 as well. Thank you for taking some time out of your day to read this letter and I hope that this is a successful year for your child and is a bridge in their path to success later in life.

Adios,

Bienvenido Roa
Spanish, Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

Approved: _____, Principal



Rubrics - 10th grade

Spanish 10 uses the IBMYP rubrics as a basis for assessment of the students' learning. These rubrics require that the students:

- Communicate information, ideas, and opinions
- Understand and appropriately use structures and vocabulary
- Provide and request information in both spoken and written contexts
- Engage actively in oral production using comprehensible pronunciation and intonation
- Take part in formal and informal exchanges related to the areas of interaction and to cultural and international issues

There are four IBMYP assessed areas in Language Acquisition. These are:

- Comprehending spoken and visual text
- Comprehending written and visual text
- Communicating in response to spoken, written and visual text
- Using language in spoken and written form

Language Acquisition rubrics are used to show where a student falls within his/her phase. When the student reaches the highest level of the rubric, he/she is moved to the next phase, with a new set of rubrics to show growth and development. In this way, the Language Acquisition rubrics serve as a learning tool, and provide a guide for the student, teacher and parents.

MYP Criteria

Criterion A: Comprehending Spoken and Visual Text

Criterion B Comprehending written and visual text

Criterion C Communicating in response to spoken, written and visual text

D Using language in spoken and written form

PALS Holistic Rubric for Speaking, Reading and Writing

***If you would like a digital or hard copy of these rubrics or of the IBMYP Language B Objectives, please contact me at your convenience. (broa1@pghboe.net)