



CONTACT LETTER Spanish Language

August 09, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Welcome back to another great school year at Cuero High School as we strive to create a learner-centered environment! I have very high expectations for my students, in their academic development, as well as in their behavior performance during Spanish Class. I believe strongly in building good communication between the teacher, the parents/guardians, and the student as a vital factor in the achievement of the child's academic success.

USE OF THE TARGET LANGUAGE IN THE CLASSROOM: Research indicates that effective language instruction must provide significant levels of meaningful communication* and interactive feedback in the target language in order for students to develop language and cultural proficiency. The pivotal role of target-language interaction in language learning is emphasized in the *K-16 Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*. ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) therefore recommends that language educators and their students use the target language as exclusively as possible (90% plus) at all levels of instruction during instructional time and, when feasible, beyond the classroom. In classrooms that feature maximum target-language use, instructors use a variety of strategies to facilitate comprehension and support meaning-making. For example, they:

1. provide comprehensible input that is directed toward communicative goals;
2. make meaning clear through body language, gestures, and visual support;
3. conduct comprehension checks to ensure understanding;
4. negotiate meaning with students and encourage negotiation among students;
5. elicit talk that increases in fluency, accuracy, and complexity over time;
6. encourage self-expression and spontaneous use of language;
7. teach students strategies for requesting clarification and assistance when faced with comprehension difficulties;
8. offer feedback to assist and improve students' ability to interact orally in the target language.

Following is the LIST OF SUPPLIES required for Spanish Class.

- 1 binder (1 inch with pockets inside, can be a used one) ***Must bring to class every day.**
- 1 pack of dividers (5)
- 1 spiral (70 sheets)
- 1 highlighter
- Pencils and pens
- Colored pencils or markers
- 1 box of Kleenex

The **COURSE PROGRAM, RULES, AND GUIDELINES** that all Spanish classes will follow throughout the school year have been posted at www.cueroisd.org on the personal teacher's website. Please, review this information and return the Spanish Class Agreement (attached) signed no later than **Friday, August 18th**. All students will be held accountable for their behavior performance and academic development and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Cuero I.S.D. Student Handbook.

Parents/Guardians should feel free to contact me at school and schedule a conference, send a note, or e-mail me with any questions or concerns about the learner's development. I look forward to an exciting and challenging year for us in Spanish Class.

Sincerely

Mrs. Olga Rojas

orojas@cueroisd.org

School phone: (361) 275-1900 x2

Conference time: 1:10-1:55 PM



SPANISH CLASS AGREEMENT

I expect that we will work together to create an enjoyable classroom environment in which you and I can grow and learn. Please read, initial and sign on the corresponding places, and return this Class Agreement to your Spanish teacher no later than **Friday, August 18th**.

_____ I have reviewed the **COURSE PROGRAM, RULES, AND GUIDELINES** posted at www.cueroisd.org on the personal teacher's website or Google Classroom.

_____ All students will be held accountable for their behavior performance and academic development and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Cuero I.S.D. Student Handbook.

_____ **All PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES should be TURNED OFF DURING CLASS TIME and MUST be placed in the area designated by the teacher.**

_____ Restroom breaks will be limited and should be no longer than 5 minutes. (unless indicated differently by the nurse's office).

Students will use Spanish (target language) as exclusively as possible (90% plus) at all levels of instruction:

_____ Students will engage in direct oral or written communication with others.

_____ Students will have conversations face to face and participate in class discussions.

_____ Students will read, listen, and demonstrate comprehension of print, audio, and audiovisual materials.

_____ Students will present their work orally in front of the class and through Google Classroom.

_____ Students will write reports and compositions.

The Spanish Language program includes several projects and activities related to Hispanic cultural aspects, such as Day of the Dead, Christmas Traditions, and Hispanic Heritage. If the student cannot complete these projects, an **academic project will be assigned instead. (Please select one of the following options)**

_____ My child **will** complete cultural projects.

_____ My child **will not** complete cultural projects.

Student Name _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____