**Target Language Statements**

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| In signing this syllabus, you acknowledge and pledge to do the following:    I will speak and write in Spanish every day, knowing that my errors will only help me improve.  I will respect my classmates and my teacher, doing everything possible to build others up.  I will follow the policies outlined in this syllabus and will accept the consequences if I break school/classroom rules. |
| Keep in mind that our National organization, The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), released the following statement for language classrooms: “ACTFL 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.”  Please do not be afraid! Part of learning a different language is making mistakes. |
| **ORAL CLASS PARTICIPATION**  You cannot learn a foreign language if you do not practice out loud. Do not worry about making mistakes when you speak – you will NOT be penalized for imperfect language – the important thing is that you try! I would much rather have you participate actively and make some mistakes than to just sit in your seat, speaking only when I call on you. With a desire to improve and enough practice, your errors will begin to disappear. Remember that at least 90% of the class will be conducted in Italian. |
| **Interaction and Class Work**  *Spanish is the language of communication in the classroom*. Your participation grade depends heavily on how much you earnestly attempt to speak Spanish at all times. You will earn daily points for speaking Spanish and being actively involved in classroom activities (being on task) including prompt completion of drills, group work and individual assignments. Class work may be turned in or kept in your Spanish class notebook. |
| Since our goal is to improve your proficiency in Spanish, it is my expectation that you will converse with me and your classmates predominantly in **Spanish**. I request that you ask permission to speak English before doing so. It’s important to take full advantage of our time to improve communication skills. Participation is recorded on a daily basis, and being off-task, being unprepared, or using English at an inappropriate time will carry negative consequences on your participation grade. Ideally you will volunteer one or more times per day to speak in the target language above and beyond the minimal requirements of the class activities, such as initiating a conversation or asking questions beyond structured activities. It is exhilarating to speak **Spanish** and to be understood. I invite you to experience this yourself. |
| In this class we will be immersing ourselves in the culture and language of Spanish-speaking people around the world. We will be refining our *Communication* skills, gaining different *Cultural* perspectives, *Comparing* the Spanish language and cultures to our own, *Connecting* our world language skills to other subject areas and seeing the strong Hispanic influence even within our own *Community*. This is a class where you are required to communicate in the Spanish language. Please do not be afraid. Part of learning a language is making mistakes and trying. |
| In-class participation/interaction involves both the simple act of contributing to the class discussions and activities (aka you have to be **here** and **awake** to participate) and using the Spanish language—the language of the classroom—as frequently as possible. Although I completely understand how difficult it might be to express yourself adequately in a new language (I was there…), I will expect you to speak in the target language—the language of the classroom—the vast majority of the time. Your in-class interaction grade depends heavily on how much you earnestly attempt to speak Spanish at all times. |