Queridos estudiantes y padres, (Dear students and parents,) 10/3/12

As we have now completed the first month of school, I want to make sure both students and parents are staying up-to-date on Spanish class happenings and grades.

I hope you have been checking the Spanish class website, and more specifically the blog, for class updates. If you haven’t seen it yet, please go to hamiltonspanish.weebly.com. If you would prefer to get updates in hard copy, please send a note with your child and I will print out the updates for you.

Spanish grades can be viewed through PowerSchool. As we have only a few grades so far this year, one very high or very low grade will significantly impact the overall grade. However, there will be many more grades earned yet in this semester, so students do have the power to alter their grades, hopefully for the better!

This is also a good time to check in on study habits. Students are responsible for their own learning, but I provide many tools to help them learn. Here are some examples that can be utilized:

1. **Worksheets** – Worksheets are given in class to practice the concepts we have been working on. Students often have 20 minutes of in-class work time to complete a given worksheet. They are allowed to use the book and friends and resources to help them, but the goal is for each student to take ownership of their own work. I also wander the classroom during this time, and students can ask for help or clarification on anything we are learning. Worksheets are graded on an effort-basis. If students complete all the activities, they receive a “3”. If they do half of it, their grade is a “2”, and a third or less complete is a “1”. Worksheets should always be getting 3’s, as completion is all that is needed to earn a 3.
2. **Textbook** – Students have their own hard copy of the ¡Exprésate! textbook. The textbook can be brought home, as it is a great resource to learn from.
3. **Online textbook** – Was your textbook left at school? No problem! Every page of the textbook can be accessed online at my.hrw.com. A username and password is needed – please see the Spanish class website for that information.
4. **Online practice activities** – There are even more practice activities that go along with the information we are learning. The site is tinyurl.com/9lecvgu. This link can also be accessed from the class corner of the Spanish class website.
5. **Flashcards** – I have all the materials readily available in class to students who would like to make flashcards to study.
6. **Vocabulary Charts** – Vocabulary charts are blank, two-column tables that can be filled in with the Spanish word in one column and the English word in the other. These are also available in class or you can download one at home from the Spanish class website (Class Corner > Class Documents).
7. **Lunch study sessions** – I offer lunch study sessions on specific topics in Spanish throughout the year. We just had one on Tuesday on personal pronouns. Anyone can come to these study sessions – just grab your lunch and get the extra help you need.
8. **Talk to Señora Goorhouse** – If you are struggling, please do not be afraid to ask for help. It is better to ask right away than to feel lost and do poorly all semester.

My goal is the success of all students, but students also need to do their part to be successful. If you have any further questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Gracias,

Señora Goorhouse

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