

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Length: Two semesters

Overall Course Objectives

The MS Spanish I course helps students:

- Master common vocabulary terms and phrases, including personal contexts such as greetings, family, school, and hobbies
- Comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, including the conjugation of regular verbs in the present tense, asking questions, and making comparisons
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of Spain, Mexico and other areas of Latin America
- Participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts
- Generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and grammar patterns
- Read, write, speak, and listen for meaning in basic Spanish
- Regularly assess progress in proficiency through quizzes, tests, and speaking/writing submissions

Recurring Content

Vocabulary Theme

- Each unit presents a new set of vocabulary words pertaining to a particular theme. Each topic is first presented in context and then, the vocabulary is further practiced through a variety of interactive activities and practices. A printable vocabulary list is also provided.

Grammar Concept

- Each unit introduces a new grammar pattern. The concept is first introduced in a contextualized situation and then presented in a multimedia grammar animation. The concept is then further practiced in several interactive activities throughout the unit. A printable explanation of the pattern is also provided.

Presentation of Culture through Culture Videos

- In each unit, students learn about various cultural aspects (e.g. practices, products, and perspectives) of a Spanish-speaking country through short video presentations.

“Out of Seat” Activities

- Several times during the year, students are given opportunities to use the language “outside” the course. These are specific assignments directing students to interact in a genuine way with the Spanish language or Spanish-speaking cultures.

Speaking and Writing Activities

- Students complete speaking and writing activities in each unit. These activities give students a chance to become more familiar with the speaking and writing patterns of Spanish by applying them in communicative situations.

Listening and Reading Comprehension Activities

- Each unit contains both listening and reading comprehension practices. They are based on the vocabulary, grammar, or culture concepts presented that unit and challenge students to identify the main ideas and significant details of the listening/reading excerpts.

Assessments

- Listening and reading comprehension quizzes verify that students comprehend the main ideas and/or significant details of target language passages or conversations.
- Culture comprehension quizzes verify that students have understood important concepts presented in the culture presentations.
- Unit tests assess students’ mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concepts presented that unit. Each unit test also includes reading and listening comprehension questions and an oral or written assessment.
- Midterm and Semester Exams are comprehensive in nature. Not only do they assess students’ knowledge of the language, but they also assess students’ ability to produce the language in a communicative way. Midterms and Semester Exams include both oral and written assessments.

“Life-long Learner” Assignments

- Each semester students are required to create a plan for incorporating Spanish into their daily lives. They accomplish this by outlining the long-term benefits of learning Spanish, by making goals for what they want to accomplish with their mastery of the language, and by creating a plan for accomplishing their goals.

“Explore” Activities

- These activities help students develop a more profound understanding of Spanish- speaking countries and cultures.

“Webquest” Activities

- These special activities provide students the opportunity to link out to authentic sources of language on the Internet. Students are given practical tasks where they must use their language to accomplish the assignment.

Discussion Board Activities

- There is one discussion board activity in each semester. These activities provide opportunities for students to interact with other students and practice their new language.

Journal

- Journal assignments allow students to make cultural comparisons, reinforce new vocabulary and grammar patterns, and practice communicating in the language

Pronunciation

- Pronunciation lessons are presented in short animation videos. These videos focus on the unique sounds of the language. Follow up activities throughout the unit provide additional practices for students to improve their pronunciation skills.

Course Scope and Sequence

Semester 1				
	Vocabulary	Grammar	Culture	Pronunciation
Unit 1	Greetings	Subject Pronouns Tú vs. Ud.	Introduction to Mexico	
Unit 2	School Alphabet	Nouns (singular and plural, gender, agreement) Definite Articles Indefinite Articles	Mexican Schools	Alphabet
Unit 3	Descriptions Colors	Adjectives Rules of Accentuation	Tortillas	
Unit 4	Countries and Nationalities Numbers	Conjugating Verbs Ser	Idioms	Vowel A
Midterm Review and Test				
Unit 5	Telling time Adverbs of Frequency	Estar Negative Sentences Telling Time	Mexico City Aztecs	
Unit 6	Common AR verbs Coordinating Conjunctions Prepositions	Present Tense AR Verbs	Birthdays in Mexico	Vowel E
Unit 7	Common IR verbs Common ER verbs	Present Tense IR Verbs Present Tense ER Verbs	Nezahualcóyotl Poem	
Unit 8	Days, Months, and Seasons Numbers 30a a a	Question Formation Giving Dates	Mariachis	Vowel I
Unit 9 Final Review and Test				
Semester 2				
Unit 10	Hobbies and Pastimes	Gustar	Introduction to Spain	Vowel O
Unit 11	Food (part 1)	Possessive Adjectives Possession Using "de"	Tapas y la sobremesa	
Unit 12	Food (part 2)	Demonstrative Adjectives	Tortilla y Paella	Vowel U
Unit 13	Family	Two a a Verb Combinations	Idioms	
Midterm Review and Test				
Unit 14	Places	Ir + a + infinitive Acabar de Contractions	History of Spain	H

Semester 2 (Continued)				
	Vocabulary	Grammar	Culture	Pronunciation
Unit 15	Animals	Stema Changing Verbs	Festivals in Spain	
Unit 16	Shopping	Irregular Present Tense in the "yo" Form	El Quijote	J
Unit 17	Weather Expressions	Hay and "Tener" Expressions	Velázquez	
Unit 18 Final Review and Test				