

Spanish Update at Seven Hills Classical Academy 10.2.09

Spanish Classes are off to a wonderful start this fall! Below, you can read about what the children have been learning in September.

Kindergarten:

The kindergartners began Spanish in September by learning how to greet others and say goodbye. They enjoy saying “hola” and “adiós” to our Spanish-speaking puppet Kermit “la rana” as well as their teacher. They also enjoy asking Kermit in Spanish to give them a “high-five” (dáme cinco), a hug (un abrazo) and sometimes even a kiss (beso). Kermit has a huge problem of sucking his thumb in class and the whole class now yells “no chupes” which means no sucking, when they catch him in the act! They absolutely love this! They have learned the song “The Itsy, Bitsy Spider” which in Spanish is called “La Arañita Alicia.” In this song the words spider (arañita), sun (sol), and rain (lluvia) have been emphasized for the students. The kindergartners have also played a game with our “box of surprises” (caja de sorpresas). Inside the box we have a car (coche), a crayon (crayón), a cookie (galleta), a ball (pelota) and the most recently added, stickers (pegatinas). The students are asked to close their eyes (cierren los ojos) and Señorita Jen places one object in the box. The children are then asked to open their eyes (abran los ojos) and get to guess, in SPANISH, which item is in the box as it is shaken. Most recently the class has read the book “The Five Little Monkeys” in Spanish. The students participate by counting the monkeys in Spanish and using the phrases “salten, salten, salten” and “se cayó,” telling how the monkeys jump on the bed and then fall off. Ask them to show you the actions and do the chants at home!

*Vocabulary sheets went home with your child on Wednesday of this week which include words we have already learned, as well as words we will be learning in the upcoming weeks. Please feel free to practice with your child at home. So far, Spanish has been a blast in the Kindergarten classroom and we are looking forward to a great year!

First and Second Graders:

At the very beginning of the year the first and second graders started working new Spanish using their new Spanish names, they even got to decorate their own nametags on the first day of class!

¿Cómo te llamas tú? (What is your name?)

Me llamo... (My name is...)

They are able to say how they are doing, and they are even able to say how other people are feeling. (Marta está bien.-Marta is good.) One of their favorite activities is to do is to play a game with different happy and sad faces to see if they can name how all the faces are feeling.

¿Cómo estás tú? (How are you doing?)

Estoy muy bien, asi-asi, o muy mal. (I am very good, so-so or not so good.)

We have also been learning the Spanish colors, and the first and second graders are doing great!

Blue-azul

Red-rojo

Yellow-amarillo

Green-verde

Orange-anaranjado

Pink-Rosado

Purple-morado

White-blanco

Black-negro

Gray-gris

Brown-café/moreno

To practice the colors the first and second graders have been working with many different sombreros or hats. All the sombreros are brightly colored to match one of the Spanish words, and it is the job of the class to remember which color is which. They really love it when we get to play games involving the colors, such as: Toca la nariz cuando tengo el sombrero rojo. (Touch your nose when I have the red sombrero.) This gives the kids a chance to move around and have fun while learning Spanish!

We have just begun learning the “Días de la semana” (Days of the week) which are not capitalized in Spanish: lunes (Monday), martes (Tuesday), miércoles (Wednesday), jueves (Thursday), viernes (Friday), sábado (Saturday), domingo (Sunday). Plus learning how to ask what day is it? It is..... (¿Qué día es hoy?, Hoy es....)

The children have been working very hard in Spanish class and of course having a lot of fun as well. We love singing songs, playing games, and continuing to learn Spanish in all sorts of fun ways.

Third and Fourth Graders:

The students in third and fourth grade have had a great start to the year! We began the year by choosing Spanish names for class and using creativity while making nametags. By using Spanish names, students have had the opportunity to learn how to introduce themselves in Spanish. They have also learned how to start a conversation using friendly, useful expressions!

In the past few weeks, we have spent some quality time going over “La familia” (the family) vocabulary. We have practiced saying the words together and individually while enhancing pronunciation skills. You may hear your child even practicing at home! Here is a list of what they may be saying: *La abuela- The grandmother *El abuelo- The grandfather *La madre- The mother *El padre- The father *La hermana- The sister *El hermano- The brother *La hija- The daughter *El hijo- The son *La tía- The aunt *El tío- The uncle *La prima- The cousin (feminine) *El primo- The cousin (masculine)

Also, we have been reviewing how to understand the question, “¿Cuántos años tienes?” (How old are you?) and the response, “Yo tengo __ años.” (I am _ years old). Some classes have even learned a fun chant to remember how to conjugate the verb “Tener” in the present tense in order to say how old other people are.

Tener-to have (years of age) or any object. This is the conjugation in the present tense:

Yo tengo-I have

Tú tienes-You have

El/Ella tiene-He/She has

Nosotros tenemos-We have

Ellos/Ellas/Uds. tienen-They/All of you have

Lastly, the students have been reminded of the alphabet and commands which they learned last year such as; stand up, sit down, turn around, jump, march and touch your head. We plan to implement these commands in many interactive activities throughout the year!

It has been a great start to the year. We look forward to continuing the fun and productive learning environment we have had during Spanish class!

Meet the Spanish Teachers:

Señorita Jen:

Señorita Jen teaches Spanish on Mondays and Wednesdays to Kindergartners through third graders. She teaches Spanish to the following classes: Ms. Day, Mrs. Wiederholt, Ms. Mellgren and Miss Getz. This is Jen's second year teaching children at Seven Hills Classical Academy! She is very happy to be back teaching some of the same children this year. Señorita Jen comes from a family of teachers. Her Grandma, two of her aunts and her sister are kindergarten teachers and her mom ran an in-home day care center. She has worked with K-12 students in the Minneapolis school district, primarily working with Spanish Speaking and ELL students. She has co-taught adult English classes with the Minnesota Literacy Council, volunteered at many after school programs, and taught small groups of K-8th graders at Jefferson Community School. Señorita Jen spent over 6 months in Venezuela studying Spanish and learning the Venezuelan way of life. She completed an internship at an orphanage in the Dominican Republic, where she coordinated summer camps for over 500 local children and was recently in Guatemala, volunteering with an education and human development program. Señorita Jen has also spent time in Costa Rica, Peru, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain and Thailand. Besides working at Seven Hills, she currently teaches Spanish to preschoolers for O'Neill Language Academy. One of her passions when she is not teaching is dancing and volunteering. Srta. Jen is also very passionate for the field of Social Work.

Señorita Sievert:

Señorita Sievert teaches Spanish on Tuesdays and Thursdays to grades 1-4. She teaches Spanish to the following classes: Mrs. Gleason, Mr. Wammer, Mrs. Carlin and Mrs. Nelson. From 2004-2006 Señorita Sievert taught Sunday school to children ages 6-12 years of age. During her time as a Sunday school teacher, she prepared and delivered lesson plans, taught children using games, songs and a variety of activities and encouraged participation and conflict resolution among children. Ms. Sievert has also worked with children as a nanny from 2004 to the present. She spent the last academic year studying in Spain and she has also spent time in Peru and Costa Rica to improve her Spanish language skills. She spent much of her time in Spain working as an English tutor, creating games and activities to make learning fun. Señorita Sievert demonstrates leadership abilities in the community as she was a Speaker for the University of Minnesota Global Campus, the Dance Team Captain, Editor-in-Chief of a newspaper and a choreographer and teacher for school musicals. In addition to Spanish, she is also pursuing a career in journalism.

Señorita Snider:

Señorita Snider teaches Spanish on Wednesdays and Fridays to grades 1-4. She teaches Spanish to the following classes: Mr. Langins, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Passa and Ms. Koester. This past spring Ms. Snider taught English to children in Ecuador. The ages she taught (6-12 year olds) are the same ages she is teaching at Seven Hills Classical Academy. In 2005 Ms. Snider also worked with children in Tijuana, Mexico. In addition she taught English at an after school program in Spain, tutored boys in reading in Jamaica and worked with and cared for children at a day care center in Michigan. When she is not teaching Spanish, Ms. Snider works for a catering company where she executes events of up to 400 guests while managing staff of up to 10 employees. She has earned the lead and supporting female roles as an actress in various plays at the University of Minnesota's X-Box theatre, Playwrights Center and The Varsity Theatre as well as in high school.

All three Spanish teachers are committed to providing a quality language program while making learning a second language fun for the students of Seven Hills Classical Academy. They will teach your children listening, speaking, reading and writing skills with each new vocabulary theme they introduce and they will gradually introduce grammar.

If you have any question during the year about the Spanish program, please call O'Neill Language Academy, Inc. at 651.264.0404.