

# Español con la Señora Kennedy

¡Bienvenidos a mi clase de español! I am Señora Kennedy, the Spanish teacher here at Detroit Merit Academy. Hopefully this will be some information to get the quarter started off right. Please read over the following and sign to let me know that you have reviewed this information. Thank you!

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## About Señora Kennedy

This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at DMA, and my sixth year of teaching. I have taught K-8 Spanish for most of my teaching career, but I also had the chance to go to Spain for a year on a Fulbright grant to teach English at an elementary school there. I am also certified to teach high school English and English as a Second Language. I am not a native speaker of Spanish, but I began learning it high school and loved the language so much that I decided I wanted to share the excitement of learning a new language with my students. I love learning about new languages and cultures myself, and travel any chance I get. (I am currently working on learning Arabic as my third language.) I live in Ypsilanti with my husband and my cat. (They speak a little Spanish, too.) I am excited to work with your student and to be part of this school community.

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## K-3<sup>rd</sup> Spanish Classes: Frequently Asked Questions



### 1. Why do all of our students have Spanish – even in Kindergarten?

Young children are the most natural language learners. They learn to understand their first language by listening to their family speaking it, and gradually begin using words themselves. A baby doesn't learn language from a textbook – they learn it by hearing it and speaking it. The ideal time to start learning a new language is when you are young, too. Research has shown that students are able to acquire language (that is, learn it simply by hearing it) before the age of about 10. Older children (and adults) can learn new languages, but through organized study. Kids just soak language up like a sponge!

### 2. How do you teach Spanish to young children?

I teach Spanish using the same sequence that children learned their first language at home: First students learn to listen to the language, then they speak words and simple phrases, and later on they move onto reading and writing. In Kindergarten and first grade, most of our language is oral: We sing songs, play games, and participate in interactive activities that allow students to hear and use the language. I use Spanish in the classroom as much as possible. (Your child may tell you that I do not know how to speak English!) In 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I still concentrate on oral language, but we also begin to do more reading and writing in Spanish, beginning with words and sentences.

### 3. Where's the homework?

Since most of our focus in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade is on oral language, I do not give homework to the younger grades. I may send home flashcards to practice vocabulary, but there is no mandatory Spanish homework to be completed.

### 4. What can I do to help my child practice Spanish?

Ask them about the songs and rhymes they have learned in class. Check the library for books, videos, and CDs in Spanish. Music is a great way to practice Spanish – check my website for links to songs, online games, and other resources to help your child learn. (There are some resources that might be useful for you to learn, too.)

## **Behavior Guidelines & Consequences:**

During Spanish, students are expected to follow all school rules and procedures. Here at DMA each classroom creates a social contract to help create a positive class environment and set expectations for the school year. Since I am coming into students' home rooms, I will be using the social contracts they have created with their class, and using a color system to track behavior. In the case of continued misbehavior, or if the student violates the student code of conduct seriously, s/he will be referred the Dean. Please see the DMA Student handbook for more details on our school guidelines.

<b>Student is...</b>	<b>Color is...</b>	<b>The consequences are...</b>
Meeting behavior expectations. Following the Social Contract. Accepting reminders about behavior.	Green	Success!
Not meeting behavior expectations. Not responding to reminders.	Yellow	A "refocus" (Think it Through) sheet.
Continued misbehavior <b>-or-</b> Intentional misbehavior.	Blue	A note is sent home to sign.
Continued intentional misbehavior. <b>-or-</b> Serious or dangerous disregard for school rules.	Red	Parent contact. (By phone or in person.)



**Contact me:**

Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns. I also have a class website with many class handouts, useful information, and lots of online resources. There are learning resources, activities and games for all ages – parents included.

You can stop by and see me at my office in 207A, but I teach from a cart so usually I am running around the school. I stand on Ashland greeting students before and after school, so you may see me there, too!

- **Office:** 207A
- **Email:** 45.skennedy3@heritageacademies.com
- **Class website:** <http://kennedyspanish.weebly.com>
- **Phone:** (734) 274-9678