

Español con la Señora Kennedy

To: Students and families of 3rd-5th grade students

¡Bienvenidos a mi clase de español! I am Señora Kennedy. I am new to UDA, and I will be teaching 3rd through 8th grade Spanish. Hopefully this will be some information to get the year started off right.

How will we learn Spanish in class?

Think about the way you learned your first language. First you heard it, and then you began speaking in words and short sentences. When you were a little older, you started to recognize letters and read words. Eventually, you learned to write. We learn a new language in the same way. We will focus on oral language first, and gradually introduce structured writing.



During our weekly Spanish time, we will be learning Spanish as interactively as possible. We will sing songs, dance around, play games, and have conversations. We will learn basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases, but we will also learn about Spanish speaking cultures. When students reach middle school and have the chance for more intensive Spanish classes, they will build upon that basic foundation of linguistic and cultural knowledge.

How can we practice Spanish outside of class?

In class, we have one hour a week for Spanish. How many hours a week do you think it takes to learn a new language? (Hint: More than one!) My goal is to teach students Spanish, but also to teach them how to be good language learners.

1. Weekly Vocabulary

Starting the second week of school, each week students will have a small group of Spanish vocabulary words to practice at home.

2. Wordplay

Students will have accounts on Wordplay, a website that lets them practice vocabulary. Don't worry about signing up for an account – I will be sending home login information.

3. Other Online Practice

On my website, I have a list of many different vocabulary games, as well as other cultural resources and links. Check it out!

4. Other Vocabulary Tools

Throughout the year, we will learn many different ways to practice vocabulary, and each student will find what works best for them.



Grades in Spanish

Each student has a different background with Spanish, and every student learns at a different pace. With this in mind, my grades are based on students' growth across the school year, regardless of the level they begin at. Students' grades will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- **Participation:** Students should participate in class activities, follow procedures and instructions, and use the Spanish they know in class. Participation will include completion of "Discovery Time" practice activities at the beginning of each class.
- **Classwork:** We will have a variety of class activities that will help us practice specific language skills.
- **Homework:** In general, homework will be weekly vocabulary practice.
- **Projects:** Students will work on specific language projects that fit with their individualized learning goals. Look for more information as we progress in the semester!

Behavior and Expectations:

During Spanish, students are expected to follow all school and class rules. Since I am coming into homeroom classes, I try my best to stay consistent with the procedures that the homeroom teacher has put into place. I always try to help a student correct his or her own behavior within the classroom first, by giving them reminders and a chance to reflect on their actions. If a student is having ongoing trouble with behavior expectations, I will contact parents and work with the homeroom teacher to find a solution.

Take a survey!

I have a brief (and optional) [Family Survey](#) on my website, to get a little more information about my students, and how I can help them learn best. Go to my website (listed below) and click on the Survey button.



Contact me:

Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns. Email is the best way to get in touch with me, since I am travelling around to various classrooms throughout the school day! 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.

- **Email:** skennedy@urbandiscoveryacademy.com
- **Class website:** <http://kennedyspanish.weebly.com>
- **Class twitter:** @kennedyspanish

I do have office hours on Wednesday mornings right before school for students who need help. Since this time is set aside for students, please get in touch with me so we can arrange a parent meeting separately.