



SPANISH CLASS NEWS FLASH



Check out our new CSMH Spanish website at:
nautilusdesign.com/Spanish/spanishhome.html

August 29, 2009

Dear kindergarten parents,

My name is Dana Reginato and I am the K-2 Spanish teacher. This is my sixth year at the Charter School. My teaching experience includes teaching 3-5th grades in Bilingual Classrooms, teaching pre-school in Spanish, teaching ESL to junior high, high school and adult students and teaching private Spanish lessons to children and adults. The common thread in all my teaching experiences is that I love language acquisition and Spanish is my passion. I speak Spanish at home with my husband and two children. I have enjoyed teaching the children at this school Spanish and *I'm looking forward to another fun year of language acquisition with the kindergarten students at the Charter School!*

I use an Immersion method and the "Natural Approach" when teaching Spanish. This means that Spanish is not a grammar or translation class. I use pictures, movements, songs and books to gain comprehension. I speak Spanish exclusively in class modifying my speech to make it simple and understandable. The way your children are learning Spanish is more like how they learned their first language.

This week we have been going over classroom rules, singing getting to know you songs, reviewing some basic questions and vocabulary in Spanish class. This week we will begin our first theme entitled, "Señor Sol/ Señora Luna (Mr. Sun/ Mrs. Moon)." During this unit the students will make stick puppets and learn greetings for different times of the day. We will also be introducing colors, some opposites, talking about their teachers and the numbers #1-10.

I have included the words to some songs that we have been doing in class (and will be doing) for your reference. In addition, there is a page about the stages of language acquisition and my "Blues Clues" explanation for how to learn language in an Immersion class.

I would like every student to have a simple, two pocket folder to use for storing their Spanish class work. ! Please send this in with your child's name written in permanent pen/marker in the upper right hand corner. Thanks to all of you who have already sent them in. ¡Gracias!

I encourage you to volunteer during Spanish time if you speak Spanish or want to learn Spanish with the children. The presence of parents in our classroom enriches our experience. If you cannot volunteer weekly, let me know if you can periodically for special activities. Please sign up with your child's classroom teacher or send me an e-mail at: Dreginato@csmh.org.

Muchas gracias,

Maestra Dana

Dana Reginato, K-2 Spanish



Canciones de agosto

August Songs

<u>Señor Sol</u>	<u>Mr. Sun (To the tune of Barney's Mr. Sun)</u>
Señor Sol, sol	Mr. Sun, sun
Grande Señor Sol	Great (big) Mr. Sun
Brilla siempre	Always shine
En mí (2x)	on me (2x)

<u>Buenos Días</u>	<u>Good Morning (to the tune of Fraire Jaques)</u>
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by Jose Luis Orozco

Buenos Días	Good Morning
(eco)	(echo)
¿Cómo estás?	How are you?
(eco)	(echo)
Muy bien, gracias	Very well, thank you
(eco)	(echo)
¿Y usted?	And you (formal)?
(eco)	(echo)



Al tambor

To the Drum

Al tambor, al tambor	To the drum, to the drum
Al tambor de alegría	To the happiness drum
Yo quiero que tú me lleves	I want you to carry me
Al tambor de alegrría	To the happiness drum
(nombre)...O, (nombre)	(name),O, (name)
(nombre), amigo mío	(name), my friend
Yo quiero que tú me lleves	I want you to carry me
Al tambor de alegrría	To the happiness drum

This continues using different names of kids in class. For the teacher, the students sing, "Dana, maestro mía" (Dana, my teacher).

<u>Mi cabeza</u>	<u>My Head</u>
Mi cabeza dice, "sí"	My head says, "yes."
Mi cabeza dice, "no"	My head says, "no."
Este cuento se acabó	This story is over.

Continue with: "Mi mano" (my hand), "mi dedo" (my finger), "mi pie" (my foot), "Mi codo "My elbow," etc.

Blues Clues Explanation for Language Acquisition

Learning a new language is kind of like playing Blues Clues.

How many of you have ever seen Blues Clues (when you were little)?

Well, how does Joe find out what Blue wants?

Blue leaves paw prints, right. He puts his prints on things that Joe writes down in his notebook.

How many clues does he get before he goes to the “Thinking Chair?”

He gets three. Then he reviews what he saw and he makes a very good guess.

He usually is right!

Well, when you go to Spanish class your teacher will show you pictures. She will touch things and point to things. She will do actions.

For instance, if your teacher touches her head (like this) and says, “cabeza”- what do you think she is saying? What is a “cabeza”? (Affirm all guesses)

Right! It is your head. “Cabeza” means “head.”

So, I encourage you to make good guesses.

Having fun is important too! Don’t you learn more and remember the lessons more when they are fun! Try to relax and have fun with it!

Your teacher will not speak English. She will only speak Spanish during Spanish time. But she understands English, so don’t worry.

To respond to...

“Why doesn’t the teacher speak English?” and other anxious questions....

1. You already know English. This is Spanish time so you can learn Spanish.
2. We only have thirty minutes. If she translates that will be only 15 minutes of Spanish and 15 minutes of English (ie; half the time).
3. When you were a baby your mom taught you to speak English by talking to you even though you didn’t know how to speak English yet. Right? She didn’t translate to you in baby talk? She spoke to you and showed you things and read to you and sang with you. That’s what the teacher is doing. Only this time, it is your second language. Our brain is wired to learn language. Have fun with it! You are going to do fine!