



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM SUMMARIES

WORLD LANGUAGE

SPANISH

The Lower School Spanish curriculum takes students on a cultural adventure! We will be exploring language and culture through the explicit presentation and integration of the five C's: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities. Each grade level introduces students to two characters from the United States who travel through Spanish speaking countries. Culture is the backdrop of the curriculum. Cultural activities are presented with the goal of integrating students and identifying common features in different cultural traditions. This helps students derive extended value from the activities as they learn about language, culture and tradition by role-playing situations similar to those encountered by the characters. The overall goal of the Lower School curriculum is communicative competence in Spanish by means of cultural awareness activities that focus on the gradual development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills at each level. The specific objectives of the curriculum are to introduce students to Hispanic and Hispanic American culture, to foster a positive attitude toward language learning, and to provide a solid foundation for basic communication skills.

- Getting to Know You
- How we Live
- Let's Learn at School
- Animals
- Taking Care of Ourselves
- Communities
- Celebrations

The Lower School Spanish and French program is sequential, spiraling within each grade level. Each level moves at a faster pace, allowing for the recycling and expansion of acquired vocabulary and skills. The cultural perspective of the material presented changes from each grade level. In this way, students will be able to master previously learned skills while still being exposed to new vocabulary and cultural perspectives. A multi-sensory approach to language learning incorporates singing, acting, playing, movement, dancing, creating crafts, storytelling and participating in special cultural events. The seven themes addressed at each grade level are the same, but the level of depth differs. Students visit twenty countries throughout their Lower School years.

Units of Study Include:

Kindergarten

***Communicative Competence**

- greetings and goodbyes, the family, friends, what is it like
- clothing & colors, the city, the home, places in the community
- games, places, school supplies, activities
- pets, farm animals, how animals move, caring for animals
- the body, food groups, restaurants, health
- trips, the weather, the seasons, recycling
- birthdays, food and drink, dancing, games, rules

***Cultural Awareness**

- Discovering Honduras, Peru, Dominican Republic, Spain, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia

First Grade

***Communicative Competence**

- greetings and goodbyes, friends, family, a festival
- the house, the market, clothing, places in the community
- school, games, time of day, classes in the school day
- pets and other animals, where do pets live, how do animals move, what are pets like
- parts of the body, health, exercises, foods
- trips, activities throughout the year, seasons, weather
- parties, celebrations, and traditions

***Cultural Awareness**

- Discovering Mexico, Nicaragua, Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Spain and Cuba

Second Grade

***Communicative Competence**

- greetings and goodbyes, family, friends, what are we like
- house, clothing and colors, workers in the community, strolling in the community
- school, places and activities at school, days of the week, the time
- pets and other animals, where do pets live, what do animals eat, how do animals move
- parts of the body, the senses, foods, healthy habits
- the calendar, seasons and weather, places to visit, maps and weather
- family celebrations, community celebrations, country celebrations, celebrations with friends

***Cultural Awareness**

- Discovering Mexico, Bolivia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Uruguay and Guatemala

Third Grade

***Communicative Competence**

- greetings and goodbyes, family, friends, what are we like
- neighborhood and home, people in the community, clothing and fashion, places in the community
- hobbies, school, cultural activities, time
- animals, zoo animals, farm animals, jungle animals

- foods, flavors, healthy habits, senses,
- seasons, means of transportation, geography, weather
- ceremonies, community celebrations, country celebrations, customs and traditions
- *Cultural Awareness
- Discovering Peru, Argentina, Honduras, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Spain and Mexico

Fourth Grade

- *Communicative Competence
 - greetings, family, friends, goodbyes
 - places where we live, clothing and colors, activities at home and in the community
 - school activities, after school activities, vacations, events
 - pets, farm animals, fables, zoo animals
 - foods and nourishment, senses, health
- seasons and weather, means of transportation, geography and climate, historical sites
celebrations, customs and traditions, historical figures
- *Cultural Awareness
- Discovering Nicaragua, Paraguay, Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile and Spain