

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPANISH CURRICULUM

APPROVED June 10, 2004

Woodstock Public Schools

Spanish Curriculum

Philosophy Statement

“Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical...”

Statement of Philosophy
*Standards for Foreign Language Learning:
Preparing for the 21st Century, 1996*

The national standards task force identified five goal areas that encompass all of the reasons to study a foreign language and called them *The Five C's of Foreign Language Education* – **communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities**. *The World Languages Curriculum Framework* is based on the document published by this task force: *Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century*, 1996.

Taken from: *World Languages Curriculum Framework*, Connecticut State Department of Education, Division of Teaching and Learning, March 1998.

Woodstock Public Schools' Spanish Competency Standards for Students in Grade Eight

As a result of education in Grade 8, students will begin to:

- **communicate** in Spanish;
- gain knowledge and understanding of other **cultures**;
- make **connections** with other areas of study and acquire information;
- understand the nature of language and cultures through **comparisons**; and
- participate in multilingual **communities** within a variety of contexts.

CONNECTICUT CONTENT STANDARDS

In Spanish:

- 1) **Communication** Students will engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and exchange opinions.
- 2) **Communication** Students will understand and interpret spoken and written language on a variety of topics.
- 3) **Communication** Students will present information, concepts and ideas to listeners and readers on a variety of topics.
- 4) **Cultures** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, products and perspectives of Hispanic cultures.
- 5) **Connections** Students will reinforce and expand their knowledge of other areas of study through the Spanish language.
- 6) **Connections** Students will acquire and use information from a variety of sources only available in Spanish, using technology, print, audiovisual, media, data and human resources.
- 7) **Comparisons Among Languages** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of Spanish and English.
- 8) **Comparisons Among Cultures** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
- 9) **Communities** Students will use Spanish both within and beyond the school setting for personal enjoyment, enrichment and active participation.

School District Standards K – 8

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate responsibility and organization skills, including
 - Recording homework
 - Maintaining a sectioned, useable notebook
 - Maintaining a file system for papers
 - Maintaining an orderly work area
- Develop and implement study skills
- Read with comprehension
- Communicate ideas in a variety of forms, written, oral, and visual, varying style according to purpose and audience
- Make, defend, and evaluate conclusions and arguments
- Make and justify decisions and predictions
- Support general statements with proof
- Evaluate, use and cite sources to support research and writing
- Employ various strategies for problem solving
- Select and use appropriate tools
- Use proper techniques and software to create, format, modify, organize, sort, store, retrieve, and import file information.
- Proofread and edit work for accuracy and content
- Understand and appreciate the role of ethics in academic and technical disciplines.

CONTENT STANDARD 1: Communication

In Spanish, students will engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and exchange opinions.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Greet others and exchange information with peers such as names, age, where they live, family members, pets;
- Give and follow simple instructions by participating in various games or other activities with partners or groups;
- Describe their favorite activities at home and school;
- Describe various people and objects found at home and school;
- Exchange basic information about events, such as classes, meetings and meals;
- Express their likes and dislikes and their opinions regarding various people, objects, categories and events present in their everyday environments;
- Acquire goods and/or services through basic negotiations and exchange of monies;
- Recognize that there are often multiple ways to express an idea in the target language;
- Use appropriate gestures, when necessary, to make their messages comprehensible;
- Indicate that they do not understand a message or that they cannot express their intended message adequately.

CONTENT STANDARD 2: Communication

In Spanish, students will understand and interpret spoken and written language on a variety of topics.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Identify people and objects in their environment, based on oral and written descriptions;
- Comprehend short conversations among peers and familiar adults on well-known topics, including their favorite activities at home or school;
- Comprehend the main ideas contained in videos on familiar topics;
- Comprehend brief notes on familiar topics, including daily activities at home or school;
- Comprehend the principal message in highly illustrated texts in which cognates are used, including stories, newspaper articles and advertisements;
- Comprehend the main idea of orally related personal anecdotes, familiar fairy tales and other narratives based on well-known themes;
- Comprehend the main ideas and identify the principal characters when reading poems, short folk tales or illustrated stories, and
- Recognize and respond appropriately to voice inflection that indicates, for example, a question, statement or command;
- Comprehend the main ideas when listening to peers and familiar adults discuss topics of personal interest;
- Understand the main ideas, themes and some details from authentic television, radio or live presentations on topics that are of interest to themselves as well as to their peers in the target culture;
- Comprehend the basic content of written materials selected by the teacher on the basis of topical familiarity, e.g., personal letters, electronic mail, pamphlets, advertisements and illustrated newspaper and magazine articles;

- Work individually to collect data on familiar topics from various print and electronic resources, and
- Begin to make informed hypotheses about the meaning of unfamiliar, more complicated passages in the target language, based on contextual clues.

CONTENT STANDARD 3: Communication

In Spanish, students will present information, concepts and ideas to listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Give simple oral reports or presentations about family members, friends, objects, or common school and home activities in their everyday environments;
- Recite poetry, songs, proverbs or short anecdotes that are familiar to their peers in the target culture;
- Create lists of items necessary to plan activities that might take place in their daily lives or in the target culture, such as birthday parties or picnics, and
- Write short, informal notes in which they describe or provide information about themselves, their friends and families, and their school activities;
- Present short plays and skits, and perform songs in the target language;
- Prepare a diary of their daily activities and those of their families and friends in the target language;
- Summarize the plot and provide brief descriptions of characters in selected poems, short stories, folk tales and anecdotes in the target language; and
- Effectively use repetition, rephrasing and gestures to assist them in communicating their meaning in the target language.

CONTENT STANDARD 4: Cultures

In Spanish, students will demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Observe, identify and discuss patterns of behavior or interaction that are typical of their peer group in the target culture;
- Use appropriate gestures and oral expressions for greetings and farewells, and for common or familiar classroom interactions among peers and adults;
- Participate in age-appropriate cultural activities, such as games, songs, birthday celebrations, storytelling, dramatizations or role-playing;
- Observe and identify tangible products of the target language, such as crafts, dress, types of dwellings, musical instruments and typical foods;
- Identify, analyze and evaluate themes, ideas and perspectives that are related to the products being studied;
- Identify and experience or read about expressive products of the target culture such as songs, selections from children's literature and types of artwork that are enjoyed or produced by their peer group in the target culture;
- Identify and experience or read about and discuss expressive forms of the target culture in order to explore their effects on the larger community. (These forms include popular music or dance, appropriate authentic texts and common artwork, such as typical cultural designs that are used for clothing, pottery, ceramics, paintings and architectural structures.)
- Identify and analyze products of the target culture, such as social, economic, legal and political institutions, and explore the relationships between these institutions and the perspectives of the culture.

CONTENT STANDARD 5: Connections

In Spanish, students will reinforce and expand their knowledge of other areas of study through the world language.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Acquire information from a variety of sources in the world language classroom and integrate it with other school subjects, comparing and evaluating the similarities and differences in information.
- Acquire information from a variety of other subjects and integrate it into the world language classroom, comparing and evaluating the similarities and differences in information; and
- Use new information and perspectives gained through world language study to expand their personal knowledge.

CONTENT STANDARD 6: Connections

In Spanish, students will acquire and use information from a variety of sources only available in the world language, using technology, print, audiovisual, media, data and human resources.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Use multimedia sources to expand their understanding of the target cultures and integrate it with their existing knowledge base; and
- Develop the necessary skills to use the Internet/World Wide Web in order to gain greater access to the target cultures.

CONTENT STANDARD 7: Comparisons Among Languages

In Spanish, students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of that world language and their own.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Give examples of words borrowed from one language and used in another and develop an understanding of the process of borrowing; and
- Demonstrate an awareness of the target language's phonetic and writing systems and how they differ from the phonetic and writing systems in the English language.
- Understand how idiomatic expressions affect communication and reflect culture.
- Analyze various elements of the target language (such as time or tense), and compare and contrast them with comparable linguistic elements in English.

CONTENT STANDARD 8: Comparisons Among Cultures

In Spanish, students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of cultures through comparison of the cultures studied and their own.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Investigate and report on cultural traditions and celebrations, such as holidays, birthdays, “coming of age” celebrations, seasonal festivals, religious ceremonies and recreational gatherings, that exist in both the target cultures and their own culture;
- Identify and describe some cultural beliefs and perspectives relating to family, school, work and play in both the target cultures and their own culture;
- Compare and contrast art forms, such as music and songs from the target cultures, with those in their own culture;
- Use new information and perspectives to compare and contrast their experiences with those of their peers in the target cultures.

CONTENT STANDARD 9: Communities

Students will use Spanish both within and beyond the school setting for personal enjoyment, enrichment and active participation.

Educational experiences in Grade 8 will assure that students:

- Exchange information about family, school events, celebrations and free-time activities in the target language in written or oral form with other students;
- Identify different types of employment in which target language skills are an asset;
- Interact with members of the local community who are members of the target culture and interpret information regarding topics of personal, community or world interest.