

PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

World Languages Curriculum - Spanish

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

MISSION STATEMENT:

The goal of Preston's World Languages Program is to integrate foreign language instruction with content instruction in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Students learn to speak, understand and present information in Spanish while reviewing and practicing content taught in other subject areas. Content-based foreign language instruction achieves two goals: students become proficient in a foreign language due to an instructional emphasis on meaning and purposeful use of language while subject area content is reinforced and expanded. Students at all grade levels engage in meaningful communication within a real-life context. Instruction is conducted in Spanish with minimal use of English, thereby assisting students with separating the target language of instruction from their native language. Interesting and age-appropriate materials assist students with constructing their understanding. Students learn by doing, trying, exploring and revising in order to meet their expressive communication needs; as a result, students take risks as language learners. Since the goal of language instruction is not solely to speak, read and write in a foreign language, investigations of Hispanic cultures include accessing sources used by same-age peers in Spanish-speaking countries, communicating with same-age peers in Spanish-speaking countries, acquiring idioms and behavioral patterns that reflect native Spanish communication patterns, learning about Hispanic social and religious practices, and comparing Spanish language structures and cultural practices with those of the English language and American culture. Individual learner traits are incorporated into differentiated instruction design, and assessment of student progress is on-going.

Preston's World Languages Curriculum aligns with the National Standards for Foreign Language Education (3rd Edition) established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

The 2014 revision of Preston's World Language Standards establishes student performance expectations based on four years of program implementation.

World Languages Curriculum Committee Members:
Bonnie Smithers, Spanish Teacher PVMS;
Stanley Stefanowicz, Spanish Teacher PPMS, and
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Approved by Preston Board of Education on June 24, 2014