

ELEMENTARY SPANISH SL

The growing international network and the pluralistic nature of a global society demand that the United States develop citizens with sound understanding of international and cross-cultural issues and with the ability to communicate in more than one language. Developing the ability to interact effectively in a second language is a challenging task. In addition to acquiring mastery of the linguistic components of the language, the learner must become familiar with the culture of the people who speak the language in order to be able to function within the cultural context in which communication occurs.

The Spanish as a Second Language Program (Spanish SL) is an essential component in the total elementary school curriculum. It is responsive to the needs of the whole spectrum of the students population, as it strengthens the development of the basic skills of communication and provides powerful experience in the continuing development of the reasoning abilities of the students. The ability to communicate in more than one language contributes to an enriched, responsible, and meaningful life. Additionally, this skill enhances employment opportunities across a broad range of careers and reinforces every other area of endeavor, both in school and beyond.

The Elementary Spanish as a Second Language component of the total school curriculum is designed to address both the cognitive and the effective needs of the students. The curriculum objectives enable the students to develop the ability to use the Spanish language functionally, both orally and in writing, and, at the same time, reinforce students' broader understanding of the phenomenon of language and communication, both in the native and in the second language. Toward that end, outcomes and expectancies reflect realistic and attainable goals for each age-group/level and are stated in linguistic (vocabulary, grammar, fluency and pronunciation) as well as in communicative (function, content/ context, and accuracy) terms. Affectively, student outcomes are stated in terms of attitude toward speakers of the language and toward language learning itself.

The Elementary Spanish as a Second Language program is designed to help students:

- communicate effectively and appropriately in a wide range of situations for a variety of purposes in a language other than the student's own;
 - be prepared to continue growth and specialization in the languages studied and in additional languages;
 - be aware of the importance of effective communication in increasingly global society;
 - demonstrate knowledge of the culture of those who speak the language studied and its effect on the world; and
 - appreciate the contributions to society of other languages and cultures.
- * This Competency-Based Curriculum has been correlated to the Florida Sunshine State Standards in Foreign Languages as well as the Standards for Foreign Languages Learning developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). It reflects the vision of a linguistically interdependent world and prepares students to meet challenges of the 21st century.