



Greetings parents/guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! My name is Señora Margaret Weinzapfel (*Wine-zap-full*), and I am thrilled to be your child's Spanish teacher. If you have any questions, concerns or information about your child you feel is important for me to know, please feel free to call or send me an email.

Earning High School Credit Toward the 2-Credit Minimum for High School Graduation

The Spanish I curriculum used here at East Middle School, is the same curriculum offered at our district's high schools. For students in either Spanish 1 or Spanish 2, one year's coursework will equal one credit. For students in the Spanish IA and IB option, students will take Spanish for two school years on alternating days to earn one credit for Spanish 1.

Middle school students must earn a minimum average of 78% on the district's CAAP assessments in order to earn this credit. The CAAP tests are cumulative assessments of skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish.

Attendance

With the goal of increasing LONG-TERM retention and acquiring SKILLS in Spanish, most work will take place in the classroom. This is where students will get the input in Spanish that is vital to acquiring the language and building skills. Since participation is truly the key to successfully acquiring language, attendance and active participation are crucial. As parents/guardians, please do what you can to limit appointments for your child that would pull them out of the classroom.

Homework

Students should be continually reviewing and practicing vocabulary. Students will be creating flashcards for vocabulary and will be required to keep them for the entire course. Students should also be practicing the skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking as the year continues since the district assessments that determine whether or not your child earns high school credit are cumulative. **A good rule of thumb is 5-10 minutes of practice outside of class EVERY DAY!** Like other skills, language must be practiced to become more automatic. My course website will have additional resources and practice activities available as well as a calendar of assignments that can be referred to if a student has been absent:

Spanish 1A & 1B: **weinzapfel.weebly.com**

Spanish 2: **weinzapfel2.weebly.com**

Grades

Grades during the course will help us see how your student is progressing in skill areas of listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar using the new online grading tool, PowerSchool. Grades will primarily be based on study tools the students create such as vocabulary flashcards, quizzes and tests (some without advance notice), and projects.

Required Materials

- ☐ 1" or larger three-ring binder (preferably a view binder) dedicated for ONLY Spanish materials (This is incredibly important. Since we do not use a textbook, all materials will need to be kept in a separate binder that students will be required to bring to class daily. Please make sure your child is not using this binder for any other course other than Spanish.)
- ☐ zippered pouch to hold flashcards, and writing utensils
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ Fine-tip/Skinny Dry-Erase Markers (not yellow)

If your child needs assistance obtaining these items, please have him/her see me, or you may contact me directly so provisions can be made; or, if you are able to donate extra items for the class, that is always greatly appreciated.

Optional Materials

- ☐ Glossy Sheet protectors
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Headset with microphone

Communication

By email – preferred method

If you have an email address, please email me at **weinzapfma@tcaps.net**. Make sure your child's name is in the email. This has proven to be a highly effective way of communicating regarding upcoming events, student progress, and concerns.

By phone – during school hours or by appointment

My classroom phone number is **(231) 933-7375**. If I am unable to answer when you call, please leave a message on voicemail with your phone number and the best time to reach you.

In person – during school hours or by appointment

I am located in room 909 in the middle of the East Middle School building in the electives community wing across from the rear library entrance.

Websites – Spanish 1A & 1B: **weinzapfel.weebly.com**

Spanish 2: **weinzapfel2.weebly.com**

Online Gradebook – The new online gradebook program, PowerSchool, should be available to students and parents soon.