



Spanish Course Introduction

In keeping with the IB MYP program model, Spanish at Willows Preparatory School (WPS) is taught as a means of helping students acquire and hone an additional language. We believe this allows them to gain insights that enable them to appreciate a rapidly globalizing and multicultural world and to operate in it respectfully and productively in the 21st century.

The Spanish language curriculum at WPS aims to build students' Spanish language ability under the following communicative processes:

- Comprehending spoken and visual text
- Comprehending written and visual text
- Communicating in response to spoken, written, and visual text
- Using language in spoken and written form

The school utilizes a variety of resources and methodologies to achieve these IB MYP objectives, including the *Avancemos* textbook to guide grammar learning; interdisciplinary projects to explore IB global contexts; comprehensible input teaching approaches utilizing age-appropriate films and readings; and online real-world sources of Spanish as spoken and written in Spain and Latin America. From the 6th through 8th grades, Spanish learning progresses from the present tense to simple and progressive past tenses, reflexive verbs, future tense, and various command forms, equipping them with the tools to communicate in a variety of situations. Students are taught to apply their knowledge of parts of speech as they learn to construct meaning in spoken, written, and visual context. They also learn about the distinct cultures of the Spanish speaking world and are encouraged to reflect on similarities and differences between their own and other identities and cultures. Vocabulary learned concurrently with verb conjugation allows students to use their Spanish skills in a variety of interactive settings, from greetings and introductions to presenting topics in class and expressing needs and preferences in everyday situations like shopping, restaurant dining, traveling, enjoying leisure time with friends and family, and asking for directions.

In addition to opening doors to the wonders of a rich and fascinating culture and geography, the process of learning a new language activates middle school students' ability to think critically about themselves and the world in which they live.