

December 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to take a moment to explain to you how your children will be evaluated in Spanish before the end of the year. We have been reviewing for months. Now is the time to show how much we have learned!

In the weeks prior to our Christmas break I will be testing each student in 1st grade through 5th grade. The students will be tested individually.

Students in first and second grade will be tested orally. Second graders are very comfortable doing mini conversations in front of the class. First grade is going to work on this more and more!

In third and fourth grade the students will be tested in the following areas: improvising conversations in Spanish, reading, and writing. This will give you a clear and comprehensive evaluation of how much Spanish your children know. This is something we have been doing since August. Students are used to standing in front of the group and improvising conversations in Spanish. We also do mini-dialogues/conversations to practice reading and listening. In third and fourth grade we have also been taking written tests. Everyone has been doing remarkably well!

In fifth grade students are using a ninth grade textbook! It is the same textbook that McCallie has used for their Spanish I course. Students are tested on: speaking, improvising conversations, describing pictures, oral proficiency interviews, written tests, and listening comprehension. Their tests are by far the most comprehensive and most challenging of all the other grade levels, and they need to have the correct Spanish spelling! I am so proud of my fifth graders. They just took a written test that covered vocabulary, verb conjugations, and other expressions. It was a very challenging test, and they all did well on it and thought it was easy! You will be getting the graded test and the assessment for their oral proficiency tests in the weeks to follow.

Please do not be nervous about these tests. I give students THREE chances to test. I help them prepare for the tests. We study before and during testing time. Students are constantly practicing and constantly reviewing. These tests are confidence builders. They are a chance for your children to shine, and to show you (and me) how much they have learned. I will send Study Guides home so you can review with them too!

There will be no Spanish homework these weeks. The only thing the children need to do is study what we have learned. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me. I am so proud of my students. They have learned a lot of Spanish this year!

Blessings,
Mrs. Carlone