

September 2, 2004

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bienvenidos. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, what I teach, and how our daily class will mostly run.

My name is Claudia Leon and I will be your child's Spanish teacher. I was born in Peru and raised in Venezuela. I graduated from William Paterson University and am currently taking classes for my masters in Technology. This is my fifth year in Fair Lawn and I love it here.

Our main goal of the course of is to develop and improve proficiency in the target language through hands-on-activities in presentational, interpretive and interpersonal skills. The students, through these methods, will become increasingly confident in their ability to communicate effectively in the target language. These methods will be presented in 9 Themes. The "themes" consist of: School, Family, House, Pastimes, Food, Health, Clothing, and Travel.

Your child will be educated in a learning environment in which students are presented with meaningful higher-order activities(main goal of each theme) that create the context for learning and build a "felt need" to learn the lower thinking skills (grammar, vocab., etc.). I believe that by exposing the students to a wide variety of different instructional strategies and learning styles, I will be able to reach every student in my classroom.

I, the teacher, will initiate the lesson by giving an introduction to the task to the entire class. The introduction will consist of: name of theme, expectations at the end of the theme, intermediate assessments, resources, mini-lessons, times and schedules. The students will then work independently on subtasks as well as in groups. Students will take responsibility for setting goals, scheduling time and utilizing resources according to their individual needs. Intermediate deadlines within each theme will be implemented to follow the progress of the child. The deadlines may consist of: quizzes, tests, homework, etc. This is also to help your child and I see what is understood and what needs further explaining/practice. These deadlines will be graded most of the time. Technology is used both as a tool and a resource to support learning.

I envision a year of exciting and interesting things. The most important component, I ask, is that both you and your child keep an open mind. I teach a subject that can be very intense as well as significant to your child's future. I'm hoping to help those who already love, it to keep loving it and those who might not like it, to give it chance or take advantage of what's offered to them, specially since Spanish is all around them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at Memorial, by leaving a message, or by e-mail at cleon@fairlawnschools.org.

Respectfully,
Claudia Leon