

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Spanish for Spanish Speakers is a full language arts program which enables students of Spanish language origin, and others whose proficiency in Spanish allows them to benefit from the program, to become fully proficient in Spanish by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The program stresses critical and creative thinking and is designed to be relevant to all students. The Spanish for Spanish Speakers Competency-Based Curriculum reflects present day Hispanic societies and cultural values, and enables participating students to understand their cultural heritage.

The Spanish-S Competency-Based Curriculum provides the types of objectives and competencies consistent with a first-language approach to instruction and supports the basic principles of the Language Arts/Reading Program. All the components of the curriculum are linked. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are viewed as interrelated processes. The premises that support the Spanish-S Curriculum are as follows:

- Students are actively involved in the learning process, and progress is based on demonstrated achievement.
- Exposure to the richness of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture fosters an enhanced sense of self identity and self-esteem. Awareness of the contribution of Hispanic culture to world literature, the arts, and the development of modern society results in a strong vision of its role in the global community.
- Reading and writing skills are enhanced by exposure to authentic literature and relevant writing activities.
- Oral language development plays a crucial role in the Spanish-S Curriculum. A variety of activities such as informal class discussions, brainstorming sessions, poetry readings, formal speeches, debates, etc., are provided to improve oral communication and comprehension.
- Reading activities concentrate on developing skills of comprehension, interpretation and analysis.

- Exposure to literature encourages the development of habits of life-long reading. The Spanish-S Curriculum provides rich experiences with authentic literature; classical, modern, and folkloric.
- Writing is a forceful tool in the development of higher thinking skills. Writing activities stress communication in a formal and informal manner.
- Flexible grouping and cooperative learning strategies play an important role in developing problem solving and communication skills as well as self and peer assessment techniques.
- Assessment and instruction are consistently intertwined. Evaluation stimulates student progress and assists teachers in making instructional decisions. Assessment involves a variety of techniques such as teacher observation, self and peer evaluation, alternate means of assessment, and competency-based evaluation.
- Bilingual, biliterate and bicultural students are better prepared to function in today's competitive job market.
- * This Competency-Based Curriculum has been correlated to the Florida Sunshine State Standards in Foreign Languages as well as the Standards for Foreign Language developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. It reflects the vision of a linguistically interdependent world and prepares students to meet the challenges of the 21st century.