



## **Spanish Program**

### **Overview**

The Prince William Academy Spanish curriculum is organized around International Baccalaureate (IB) themes, and offers our students the opportunity to learn Spanish while opening their minds to different cultures, lifestyles, and perspectives. We recognize it is essential to have the skills and ability to communicate in an international arena. Exposure to and knowledge of a second language advances PWA students in their future endeavors as they pursue a higher education and develop professional goals. We have developed a research-based, enriching curriculum for the students at all grade levels. We utilize our own system of review to determine how the students are progressing at each level.

### **Overview by Grade Level**

#### **Preschool 2s and 3s**

The curriculum for this age group includes listening and understanding, imitation, and physical and verbal responses with group support. Teachers introduce the students to Spanish via simple songs and rhymes that focus on numbers and colors. Other topics include greetings and salutations, classroom objects, days of the week, months of the year, and animals.

#### **Jr. Kindergarten & Kindergarten**

Students in this age group are able to identify basic greetings and Spanish vocabulary terms that coincide with the curriculum themes, and they sing themed songs in Spanish and do art activities. Teachers utilize visual aids to reinforce vocabulary, and engage students in listening, speaking, and writing activities. They identify basic commands and expand on previously learned vocabulary terms. The students are introduced to Spanish art and music, and cover topics including the alphabet, clothing, family, feelings, counting to 30, and pets.

#### **First and Second Grades**

The curriculum for this age group builds the foundation for proper articulation and use of punctuation. Students engage in speaking, reading and writing activities in Spanish. They discover new aspects of grammar, including singular and plural, the basics of conjugating a verb, and formal, informal, masculine and feminine words. In addition, students study basic vocabulary and expressions, classroom commands, and cultural topics.

### **Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades**

At this stage, students engage in writing descriptive sentences and infinitive verbs. They learn how to ask questions using the interrogatory words who, what, where, when, why and how. They also learn how to explain their likes and dislikes. The students engage in directed activities and dialogues using personal pronouns and action verbs. Emphasis is still placed on expressing ideas and concepts rather than studying grammatical structures. Students work in small groups and perform skits.

### **Sixth and Seventh Grades**

At this stage, students engage in oral presentations to demonstrate knowledge of subject-verb agreement, infinitive verbs, and definite and indefinite articles. The students master the conjugation of –ar, -er, -ir verbs, and are introduced to a new structure for regular and irregular verbs. They enhance their conversational Spanish via computer technology, and are introduced to cultural dances. Students learn about various cultures, traditions, and holidays.

### **Eighth Grade**

Students master conversational Spanish via CDs and computer technology. They are introduced to past tense, indirect and direct object pronouns, and reflexive verbs. In addition, students learn cognates, future tenses, interrogative questions, negative questions, and familiar commands. Students continue to add to their knowledge of the cultures, traditions, and holidays of the Spanish-speaking world.