

2019-2020 La Cañada District Elementary Spanish Program FAQ

Q: Who can take Spanish? How do I enroll my child?

A: The LCUSD Spanish program is an **academic** elective. This optional program is open to all third through sixth grade students in LCUSD. There is no cost to enroll and there is no Spanish prerequisite. However, since sixth grade builds upon the material covered in third, fourth and fifth grades, sixth graders new to the program will need to work diligently to ensure the same level of success as their peers.

Q: How do I enroll my child?

A: An email will be sent to all PCR, PCY and LCE parents Monday, August 19, 2019. Within the email, you will find a google form. For incoming third through fifth graders, complete the online [3rd-5th Grade Registration Form](#) and for incoming sixth graders, complete the online [6th Grade Registration Form](#). All forms must be submitted by Friday, August 23, 2019. [Directions can be reviewed here.](#)

Q: I signed my child up last year. Do I still have to turn in the form this year?

A: Yes. To enroll your child in Spanish for the 2019-2020 school year you will need to complete the online registration form for each child you wish to enroll. A reminder: please do not register your child for Spanish using the previous years form. Sra. Hurley will not receive your registration. The form must be labelled: 2019-2020 LCUSD Spanish Registration Form.

Q: What is the objective of the Elementary Spanish program?

A: There are two objectives. The first objective is for all students to be exposed to another language and culture and gain an appreciation for the language and it's cultural differences. The second is for students who are interested in an advanced pathway second language acquisition to be able to test out of Spanish 1 prior to seventh grade. Third and fourth graders receive instruction on a wide variety of topics. Fifth graders begin Spanish 1 with gradual introduction to the vocabulary and grammar of the curriculum over the course of the year. Sixth graders receive instruction from the high school Spanish 1 textbook. Chapters 1-4 of the textbook are covered during the 2019-2020 regular school year. Graduating sixth grade students must take the summer class offered at LCHS to complete the Spanish 1 curriculum (Chapters 5 &6).

Q: How does Sixth Grade Spanish work?

A: The objective for Sixth Grade Spanish is to provide instruction that will allow students to test out of Spanish 1 and take Spanish 2 in seventh grade. Students who pass the placement test and take Spanish 2 in seventh grade will be a few years ahead of other students in learning a foreign language. Students who are eligible to move on must take the District sponsored four-week summer school class, offered at LCHS 7/8, to complete Spanish 1 to prepare for the placement test. The placement test is given at the end of the summer course. *Students must take the summer course to be eligible for the placement exam; students who successfully pass the placement exam will be able to enroll in Spanish 2 as seventh graders.* The summer course is for graduating sixth graders only. To be eligible for the summer course, students must complete Sixth Grade Spanish with at least an 80% test grade average on chapter tests and benchmark assessments. Summer school forms will go home in the spring of 2020 for students to register for the course.

Q: What will the classes cover?

Third and Fourth Grade Curriculum: Classes focus on developing receptive and expressive language skills in Spanish. Instructional strategies include: “total physical response,” whole-class/partner activities, songs, games, speaking/action activities, listening to stories and responding to questions. Sample curriculum topics include: alphabet, greetings & courtesies, speaking about one’s health, counting numbers, naming colors, family members, weather, body parts, days, months, seasons, classroom, clothing, house & home, food/restaurant, sports/hobbies, telling time, identifying Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Curriculum: Students work from the LCHS Spanish 1 textbook *Descubre 1*. Instructional strategies include: “total physical response,” whole-class/partner activities, games, speaking/action activities, reading and writing activities. Sample curriculum topics include: review of third grade topics and in-depth grammar study.

Q: When is Spanish offered?

A: Spanish is 30 minutes long during the regular P.E. time on a rotating schedule. In addition, sixth graders are required to attend an after school class for one hour, from 3-4 p.m. This gives sixth graders a 6-minute break between the end of the regular school day and the beginning of Spanish class. The after school classes are on the same days that sixth graders have Spanish during P.E. *The after school class is required for sixth graders and they must attend the after school classes to remain in the Spanish program.*

Q: How do I know what days my child has Spanish?

A: A calendar will be emailed to parents the week of August 26th. It will also be posted on Sra. Hurley’s website and on each student’s Spanish Google Classroom. For students in grades 3-5, you will need to know if your child is in Group 1 or Group 2 in order to know which dates apply. Sixth graders do not have a group assignment and attend class on each day scheduled on the calendar.

Q: What does the group assignment mean?

A: There are two classes (groups) of Spanish at each school for third, fourth, and fifth graders. Each class is assigned a group number: Group 1 or Group 2.

Q: Is there a difference between Group 1 and Group 2?

A: For third through fifth graders, there is no difference. Students are grouped randomly. Sixth graders do not have a group assignment. There is only one class (one group) for sixth grade students.

Q: What about P.E.?

A: Because we currently have more than the state required minutes of P.E. in the schedule, students can take Spanish and still have enough minutes of health and physical education.

Q: Why is Spanish on different days throughout the year?

A: There is only one elementary Spanish teacher that teaches at all three elementary schools. Classes are on a rotating basis so that students still receive the appropriate amount of P.E. at each school. Therefore, classes meet on different days. Monday and Fridays rotate between all three schools on a monthly basis (i.e. each month, Mondays are assigned to one school and Fridays to another school). Tuesdays are always assigned to PCY, Wednesdays to PCR and Thursdays to LCE. A calendar will be sent to all students who are registered in the class the week of August 26th.

Q: Do students have homework?

A: Third, fourth and fifth grade students will have occasional homework and are encouraged to practice what they are learning at home through the online Spanish program. Sixth graders are expected to study at home for quizzes and tests. In addition, they will need at least an 80% test grade average to be eligible for the summer course. Sra. Hurley's recommendation for sixth graders is 15 minutes of daily vocabulary/grammatical practice.

Q: Are there Spanish enrichment activities my child can do?

A: Yes! There are many options for enrichment throughout the year. These enrichment activities will be available on Sra. Hurley's website, as well as on each student's Spanish Google Classroom.

Q: Can my child get copies of the vocabulary lists to bring home?

A: The vocabulary lists will be sent home with students and available on the Spanish Google Classroom.

Q: What is the Spanish Google Classroom?

A: Each student registered in Sra. Hurley's Spanish class will receive a Google Classroom code. Students will sign into the Spanish Google Classroom by accessing their google classroom. Once signed into the Spanish Google Classroom, they will have access to all announcements and assignments given by Sra. Hurley.

Q: Can my child practice and study at home?

A: ¡Por supuesto! (Of course!) Students can access their Google Classroom for practice activities as well as on Sra. Hurley's website.

Q: Will my child earn a grade in Spanish?

A: Students do not receive an official grade for Spanish on their report cards. Instead, they receive trimester progress reports at the same time as report cards.

Q: How are students assessed?

A: Third, fourth and fifth grade students take a benchmark assessment at the end of each trimester. Sixth grade students take written, oral and listening comprehension tests to assess their progress throughout the year. Assessment scores are included on the trimester progress reports for sixth graders.

Q: How do I access the Spanish teacher's website?

A: Sra. Hurley's website is: www.lcusdspanish.weebly.com. The website is protected by passcode. Passcode: **lcsdspanish**

Q: How do I contact the teacher?

A: The best way to reach Sra. Hurley is via email. Her email address is: katherinehurley@lcsd.net

If you have additional questions, please contact Señora Hurley.