

6-8 Heritage Language Program Profile

Spanish for Native Speakers / Anne M. Dorner / Ossining Union Free School District

Address: 100 Van Cortlandt , Ossining, New York 10562

Languages/Dialects taught: **Spanish**

Grades: 6/7-8

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Teacher

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Purposes and goals of the program

To increase the knowledge of Spanish speakers of the Spanish language.

Type of program

- Immersion
- Content-based

Parents' expectations for the program

Their children will continue to learn and increase their knowledge of their native tongue

Staff's expectations for the program

Same as the parents

Students

- First generation immigrants
- Second-generation immigrants
- Children of interethnic marriages

Countries of origin: Most South American countries are represented as well as Central America, Latin America and Mexico. (Some Portuguese children that speak Spanish are included.)

Total student enrollment: Approximately 100

The program identifies who is a heritage speaker by:

- Parent self selection (The parents choose the class for their children).
- Recent Spanish - speaking immigrants
- Results of a home language survey

Percentage of students who continue to study the heritage language after completing the program: 100%

Possible reasons for not completing the program: Choosing to study another language at the high school level or going on to Advance Placement Spanish.

Instructors

Number of staff in program: 3

Languages in which staff members are proficient: Spanish

Level of proficiency for staff members: Complete fluency

Credentials

Teacher certification: Spanish credential from New York state
MA in Spanish Literature

Professional development opportunities that teachers have: very little at this point.

Professional development opportunities that teachers need: We need workshops on teaching heritage Spanish speakers. It seems that most workshops and courses are in the southwest and on the west coast.

Instruction

Hours per week that students receive instruction: 4 hours a week

Students are grouped by grade:

- 1st year (6th – 7th grade)
- 2nd year (8th grade)

Heritage Skills

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

Skills and levels of language proficiency that students reach by the end of the program:

They are able to

- Read original literature.
- Recognize basic grammar.
- Write essays and recognize different genres of literature.

Culture taught

- Geography
- History

- Festivals
- Customs
- Traditions/beliefs
- Religion
- Folktales
- Social and cultural norms
- Cultural appropriateness
- Literature

Textbook series used:

- Tu Mundo- McGraw Hill (Glencoe)

Other materials used for instruction:

- Spanish literature
- Latin American literature

Technology used in the program:

- Students make presentations using Power Point in the 2nd level.
- Research papers are done in the computer lab.

Kind of assessments

- Weekly quizzes
- Chapter tests
- Mid-term tests
- Final exams
- Teacher's observations
- Performance-based tasks or assessment

Challenges

- The curriculum is not fully developed.
- The students are often at various proficiency levels in one class.