

**Hola. Soy la Sra. Seymour, maestra de Español. Mucho gusto en conocerle.**

**Hello, I am your student's Spanish teacher, Mrs. Seymour. It is nice to meet you.**

▪ **First, why do we require the study of foreign language?**

“In March 2012, The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) sponsored an Independent Task Force that examined U.S. educational reform and national security. The findings presented in the report of the Task Force were dire. ‘Educational failure puts the United States’ future economic prosperity, global position, and physical safety at risk,’ warned Condoleezza Rice and Joel Klein, chairs of the Task Force. The report goes on to say that although the United States spends more money than many developed countries on education, our students are ill prepared to compete with their peers internationally... In order for all students to be prepared to succeed in our 21st century global economy and society, all students must be proficient in multiple languages. Formal English is essential for college and 21st century career success, and the ability to communicate in languages in addition to English is equally important. Emerging nations and economies in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East make it clear that while English is an important language, it is not the *only* world language.”

▪ **My class and my expectations:**

Students will be instructed in Spanish vocabulary, grammatical constructs, and culture. The emphasis will be on instruction with the ultimate goal of communication, and students will be given a variety of task-based activities in order to effectively accomplish this goal. Student progress will be assessed through participation in class activities, weekly vocabulary quizzes, unit projects, unit tests and a final exam.

The Five T's

TRY your best ~ you will always fail if you never try

Be on TASK ~ get everything done in class

Manage your TIME ~ you never get time back

Use TECHNOLOGY wisely ~ it is a privilege, not a right

TREAT others with kindness & respect ~ as you would like to be treated

▪ **About me:**

~I first learned Spanish at home. My mother was a Spanish teacher.

~I studied Spanish in high school and college. I graduated summa cum laude with my B.A. in Foreign Languages and Cultures (emphasis in Spanish) and magna cum laude with my M.A. in Spanish literature.

~I studied abroad in college through the University of Arizona.

~I lived in Mexico for three years (in Guadalajara and Mexico City).

~I have taught Spanish at Washington State University since 2012.

~I have an amazing husband, three wonderful children at home (ages 10, 11 & 13) and three successful (grown) step daughters.

“The Common Core Framework and World Languages: A wake up call for all”  
([https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/TLE\\_pdf/TLE\\_Jan13\\_Article.pdf](https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/TLE_pdf/TLE_Jan13_Article.pdf))