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High School Course Description: Spanish

The Spanish and French curricula for grades 9 to 12 at GISB are based on the ACTFL standards and for the general higher education entrance qualification of the Thuringian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture from 2011. Our reasoning for embracing this curriculum are as follows:

- The high number of Spanish speakers in the United States and Germany.
- The greater heterogeneity of our students compared to Thuringia, both in terms of their origin, linguistic background, and previous education; and the fact that we prepare our students for the German International Abitur examination (DIAP) in the long term.

Spanish classes at GISB are based on the principle of immersion learning as defined by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language) frameworks and are focused on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and the development of cultural proficiency. In addition, we practice the development of language mediation based on the requirements of the Thuringia Curriculum.

German International School Boston utilizes the ACTFL's World-Readiness Standards (the 5 C's), which encompass five core areas for language learning and instruction: Communication, Cultures, Connection, Comparisons, and Communities. Within Communication, ACTFL identifies three modes of communication: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational. The emphasis of these revised Standards is for learners to use the target language to explore the products, practices, and perspectives of the target culture, make connections with other disciplines, compare the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries with their own, and explore opportunities to use their Spanish language skills in their own community.

Grade 9

Students will continue to enhance their language skills that were acquired in grades 6 to 8. The instructor will offer feedback to students to help them gain more control in their communicative skills. Students will communicate in authentic situations whenever possible. The teacher uses Spanish in class to communicate vocabulary and grammar concepts to the students. Students will also deepen their cultural awareness through videos, readings, and art. Special attention will be given to narration and mediation in past tense constructions (preterite and imperfect).

Grade 10



Students continue their exploration of Hispanic culture through more in-depth lessons. Students continue to develop their oral, written, listening, and writing skills with special attention to cultural topics. The course is taught thematically and will cover topics such as ecology and conservation, health and physical fitness, personal identity and expression in society, and careers and community service opportunities. Students will specifically learn how to express desire, give recommendations and commands, and express doubt and uncertainty. Students will learn how to use the subjunctive mood and conditional and future tenses.

Grade 11

Students will continue to develop their oral communication, written, listening, and reading skills in a thematic approach to learning Spanish. Students are exposed to Spanish literature including novels, plays, and poetry. Students will study the history of Chile, including the presidency of Salvador Allende, the military coup, and the Pinochet regime. They will read newspaper articles and watch films and are expected to engage in a variety of topics related to history, politics, and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will also study contemporary issues affecting Latin America and will read *Así me nació la conciencia* by Rigoberta Menchú. Students are expected to analyze texts, engage in classroom discussions, and improve mediation skills. Students will have gained an understanding of complex and nuanced grammatical structures in the language and are expected to use them accurately.

Grade 12

At the end of grade 12, the student has gained at least an intermediate or low advanced level of competence that corresponds to level B1-B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in lessons at a basic requirement level (gA). In lessons at a higher level of difficulty (eA), the student reaches level B2+. Students are exposed to Spanish literature including novels, plays, and poetry. A thematic approach is used to introduce historical and political topics in Spanish-speaking countries. Students will study immigration and emigration of Spanish speakers to both the United States and Germany. They will also study the history of the Spanish Civil War and Franquismo. Students are expected to acquire a high level of sophisticated vocabulary that will enable them to analyze texts, films, and art, and they have the option of completing the written or oral Abitur examination.

Textbook / Informational Text Reading Amount:

- **Spanish Grades 9 and 10: Autentico Series**
- **Spanish Grades 11 and 12. A variety of sources are used including novels, plays, poetry, newspaper articles, and films.**