

## Teaching Philosophy

I developed a love of the Spanish language and culture in high school and in my time serving in the Navy while I was stationed in Spain. I believe that learning another language enhances one's primary language skills as well as promotes the acceptance and understanding of other people groups and cultures. This compels me to teach and share my love of learning foreign languages, more specifically Spanish.

I believe that one of the vital aspects of teaching a foreign language is providing a learning environment that engages, motivates, and encourages students as they begin learning a new language. That is the reason that I put a lot of emphasis into the appearance of my classroom.

My smart board is on the wall opposite of the classroom door. I believe this will help students to focus on what is going on inside of the classroom and avoid possible distractions at the door or hall. My classroom has a large round table that promotes a community atmosphere and allow all students to fully participate in class discussions. I also have four smaller round tables that allow me to gather my students into small groups and give them a separate area in the classroom to encourage small group discussions and collaboration. I have a wall of resource cabinets where students can access class supplies like maps, books, and learning games. I have a Wall of Wow where I post important information about class or school events as well as a special section dedicated to the achievements of my students. I have a computer area where students can access online activities for Spanish language learning that are used for individual practice and testing. I also used all the wall space available to create an atmosphere of learning by having the main questions and concepts in Spanish posted on the walls.

Having the classroom set up in this way allows me to utilize several teaching strategies in order to enhance the learning of my students. Some of those strategies are visualization, cooperative learning, technology in the classroom, and finally, differentiation. When students come into the classroom, they can use the information they see around the classroom to understand and engage in the daily lesson. Each lesson is guided around essential questions that require students to work together in groups to practice the language they are learning. I use Google Classroom to connect to different classrooms in Latin America and Spain because I believe this enhances my students' ability to learn more about Hispanic cultures around the world. These strategies together reinforce what I believe to be the key strategy overall and that is differentiation. I continue to learn and investigate engaging activities for my students. Through this research, I am able provide a learning environment that taps into the different learning styles of my students. Each day my students are fully engaged with the topic of study in a way that fuels their appetite for learning the Spanish language and keeps them coming back for more!