**CLASS GUIDELINES for SEÑOR NICKERSON**

 **2018-2019**

**mnickerson@winthrop.k12.ma.us**

Bienvenidos a todos. My name is Señor Nickerson and this will be my tenth year teaching Spanish at Winthrop High School. In addition, this will be my ninth year as Lead Teacher of the Foreign Language Department. Let’s take a few minutes of our time to outline some of the rules, procedures, and grading policies for my classes this year.

My goal is to get to know each of you as the year progresses, so you should know un poco sobre tu profesor. I am from Danvers and am now in my 20th year in the classroom. I love the job and I think that your education is vital to your success in the future. You may hear the names Jack and Nora quite a bit. They are my 2 kids and are very funny and pretty cute. Jack just turned 12 and Nora is 10. There are pictures of them on my desk and the website. Feel free to take a peek.

I mentioned that this is my tenth year at WHS, but I am very familiar with the area. I am a graduate of Danvers High School. I graduated from Stonehill College in 1999 and I played tennis in college. I love several sports including soccer and golf. I studied abroad in Zaragoza, Spain in 1998 and I have returned to Spain on several occasions. I am very enthusiastic towards the Spanish language and culture: the landscape, the food, the music etc… and I hope to transfer this passion to you. In fact, I first experienced Spain for the first time as a junior in high school and I have been lucky to lead groups of students to Greece, Spain and Italy. We have a trip planned for Spain & Portugal in April of 2019 and you can still sign up if you’re interested. I will talk about travel a lot because it’s an amazing experience to see firsthand what you study in the classroom. Winthrop has had some incredible experiences abroad. We have travelled every year since we did Spain in 2012 and 2016, Costa Rica in 2013, Greece in 2015, and Italy in 2014 and 2017 and most recently Ireland and The United Kingdom last April. I hope to encourage some of you to join us. If you or your parents would like the information regarding the trip to Españugal, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Sports have always been a huge part of my life and I have coached both soccer and tennis throughout the years. I am the Girls Tennis Coach for WHS and I bring that mentality into the classroom. There are so many correlations between sports and education – the most prevalent is that when you put forth 100% of your effort, you can reap the rewards.

There are four skills that are necessary to acquire when learning a foreign language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These are all equally important and will be learned in stages. When you were a child you could understand English long before you could actually speak it, so try not to become frustrated if you feel one skill is developing at a faster rate than the others are. In order to develop these skills you will have to work hard and practice daily.

I would like to set down some ground rules and expectations in my class.

1. **HABLA ESPAÑOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**EVERYBODY makes mistakes! Nobody is perfect and none of us will speak this language perfectly. If we could, we wouldn’t be in here to learn. So please be respectful and courteous to your fellow classmates and myself. One of the goals of the class is to have you speak Spanish as much as possible. In my opinion, effort and dedication will outweigh mistakes ten times over, so don’t be shy but you must speak Spanish whenever possible.

2. Please come to class **prepared**: Please make sure you have something to write with and something to write on. Once Chromebooks are distributed, please make sure you bring it to class every day fully charged. So much of what we do (textbook included) will be on Google Classroom. Therefore, it is imperative that you have your Chromebook each day.

3. **Respect the language and the culture that you are studying.** I take this very seriously and I expect you to act like ladies and gentlemen at all times. The culture of a country is sacred and must be given respect. We are always offended when other countries disrespect the United States – I want that same mentality to be demonstrated towards Spanish speaking countries as well. I try to create a completely different atmosphere when you are in my room; it’s why you get your own Spanish name. Leave your English identity at the door por favor.

4. **Respect each other and the teacher**. I want this to be a class where all students are encouraged to participate. This can only happen in an environment where everybody feels safe. This requires absolute acceptance and no bullying. If this does occur, please come see me and it will be dealt with immediately. Also, please remember that while I do encourage you to speak; please also remember to listen – to me as well as to your classmates.

5. There are supplies throughout the room, pencils, pens, and Spanish dictionaries. There are for your use but please ask nicely and always remember to return them where you got them.

6. In an effort to keep the room clean, I have one simple rule: **SOLO AGUA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Only water is permitted. **NO FOOD & NO DRINK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

7. If you are absent you are responsible for any work missed. I will post assignments on Google Classroom so they can be accessed at home. Also, if you are absent, please remember to show me the homework that was due so that you receive credit for your work.

8. In terms of discipline, I expect my students to behave in a proper manner for me, or if I am absent, for my substitute. Discipline may include detention with me, and more serious issues will be sent to the Mr. Crombie or Mr. Capasso. My goal is to keep everyone in class engaged and excited for the language and the culture. However, if you show disrespect in any way, you will be disciplined. This is my least favorite aspect of my job, so please don’t push this.

9. Enjoy the class. This can be a fun and exciting class if you jump in headfirst and participate. Think of it as a train. You can jump on and give me 100% and excel, stay the course quietly and be seen and never heard (but where’s the fun in that), or you can get off the train and miss out entirely.

10. Please feel free to come see me to talk about these guidelines and expectations, or anything you feel necessary all year. I am here to help you. I consider myself easy to talk to, so please don’t be shy.

I am looking forward to a great year in which we will both learn many things as well as enjoy ourselves! Please have your parents read this with you and it will also be posted on our Google Classroom.