



Parents' Frequently Asked Questions

1. What grade level students should take this course?

This course is designed for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

2. How often is my student expected to access the course and for what amount of time?

Each school participating in this project is developing its own attendance schedule, however for optimal retention of information it is recommended that the students access the course three times per week for 30 minutes each time.

3. What if school is delayed or cancelled?

Of course the students' safety is of primary concern and no students will be expected to travel to school to take the course. That's the beauty of **Moodle**. Being a web-based course allows the students the opportunity to access the course from the convenience of their own homes.

4. How is the course graded?

Since this is a Pass/Fail course, students will be evaluated periodically as to their progress. We are relying on them to be disciplined and diligent in completing the course on a timely basis, recognizing that each student works at his or her own pace. Clear benchmarks at the semester will be provided during the course so that the students are able to pace their progress.

5. How do I know if my son or daughter should take this course?

Not every student will be comfortable with this learning style. The student who takes this course should be comfortable with the computer, self-disciplined, self-motivated and able to communicate any needs or issues to the instructor. We recommend that students who are doing a hybrid version of this course (some instruction at school, some at home) pick a certain day of the week and commit to working on the course for a specific period of time.

6. What supplies are needed to take this course?

Earphones with a microphone, a notebook for taking notes, and a pencil or pen. Because some of the activities involve audio and are game-like in nature, we suggest each student bring his/her own earphones/microphone to class. Without there being consistency in the hardware being used, and not knowing if all are capable of built-in microphones, purchasing a set of earphones with microphone included is recommended. These can be purchased locally at Walmart or Target and can also be purchased very reasonably online at Amazon.com.

7. Why is this course being offered this way?

The course has one primary goal: the offering of foreign language instruction earlier than high school. Research proves that those students who begin foreign language at an earlier age are more likely to be successful than those who begin in high school. Also foreign language instruction helps students be more successful in other academic endeavors and courses, including taking standardized testing.

Many schools are finding it increasingly difficult to find and pay the salary of a foreign language instructor. Online instruction allows the school to offer foreign language instruction without incurring the cost of hiring its own teacher.

Mrs. Debra Streacker, course creator and instructor, is a fluent Spanish speaker with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from The Ohio State University and a Master's degree in Bilingual Education and TESOL (Teaching English to Speaker's of Other Languages) from the University of Findlay. She currently teaches high school Spanish at St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio.

8. Why is foreign language instruction important for my student?

The United States is one of the only nations that does not require its students to be fluent in another language other than the native language. This puts our students without these skills at a disadvantage in terms of competing for college admission and employment. In order for our students to be considered for highly competitive positions, we must give them every opportunity to acquire another language and begin the instruction as early as possible.

9. What will my student gain from taking this course?

Students taking the online Spanish **Moodle** course will gain several skills, including:

- a) *Ability to receive course instruction in an online format, useful for future courses in either high school or college;*
- b) *Introduction to foreign language instruction and an advantage in that they are beginning instruction earlier than most students in our state.*
- c) *With continued progress and exposure to the subsequent levels of this course, it is hoped that students will, upon taking a High School placement test, be able to test out of and acquire credit for the first one or two years of high school Spanish. Of course, these results are individual in nature and will depend on the student.*

10. How do I know if my student passes or fails?

Each school participating in this course has a teacher overseeing the students learning experience in the technology laboratory. At the end of each unit, students are required to complete a series of quizzes designed to assess their retention and usage of the information acquired during the unit. An overall passing grade on these assessments will pass the student.

If the student does not pass these assessments, it is recommended that they not proceed on to the next level of instruction until the quizzes have all been passed. The schools may request that the student be given access to the course over the summer if he/she wishes to attempt to pass the quizzes in an effort to begin the next level of instruction the following fall.

11. What is the cost for the course?

The cost of the course is \$70 for the year. Each school has its own arrangement as to how this cost is being paid. Please consult the Principal of your child's school for information as to the fee arrangement for the course.

12. Is there any way to preview the course before registering?

You may access a one-unit sample of the course. Every unit will be structured in basically the same way though the activities may differ as the students become exposed to more content.

- 1) On the internet, access the following URL: <http://moodle.streaks.net>
- 2) On the left, under "**Course Categories**", select "**Foreign Language**".
- 3) Choose the "**Elementary Spanish Sampler Course**".
- 4) Browse to your heart's content!

13. What is the deadline for registration?

The deadline for registration is June 30. The original deadline of May 28 has been extended to allow schools the opportunity to determine if this is a viable form of instruction for them and their students.