June 2017

CPP Middle School

Parents and Guardians of 8th grade Spanish students:

As the school year draws to a close, I wish to provide you with some information regarding the Final Exam in Spanish 8. Eighth grade is a special year for foreign language students, because passing the final exam in eighth grade not only adds to their final grade for this year, it also grants them one year high school credit for a foreign language. Please encourage your students to study Spanish vocabulary daily for this Exam.

The Spanish Final Exam has 4 main parts: Speaking, listening, reading, and writing. June 9th and 12th are the days designated for the listening and reading. The writing portion will be on the 8th of June (Wednesday). The speaking portion is divided into 2 categories: informal and formal. The informal speaking assessment is happening now in your student’s Spanish class. Students are required to speak in Spanish about topics of their choice. They can ask questions, answer questions, or comment in Spanish, and this minimal participation is tracked daily for several weeks leading up to the June 9th date. It should be noted that there are some students who do not volunteer to speak during this period, and they are at risk of losing up to 10 points on their final exam grade. It is a student’s responsibility to be proactive and speak the language. Teachers will help students if they need ideas on what to say. In contrast, the formal speaking tasks will be done with students individually, and it will be 20 points of their final exam grade. This will occur on June 5,6, and 7. A topic will be selected, and the teacher and student must have 4 qualifying verbal exchanges about this topic. Rules and strategies for this formal speaking portion are being discussed and practiced in class.

In summary the Spanish Final Exam for grade 8 is scored as follows:

Informal Speaking -- 10 %

Formal Speaking -- 20 %

Listening 30 %

Reading 30 %

Writing 10 %

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Spanish language and culture to your student this year. I am confident that they will do well on their exam if they continue putting in their best efforts. If you have any questions please feel free to email me anytime.

Thank you,

Matt McGrath Language Acquisition teacher (Spanish), 8 White Team