



Spanish Department Handbook

Academic Year: 2025-2026

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Spanish Department at ICS. This Subject Handbook is designed to provide an overview of the Spanish Department's policies, procedures, and curriculum. It serves as a guide for teachers, students, and parents to ensure a cohesive and effective learning environment.

2. Department Vision and Mission

Vision

Spanish students will honor Christ by using the Spanish language as a holistic tool for evangelism and promoting Christian values.

Mission

To equip students with the Spanish cultural understanding and language to use them as tools to serve, bless, and transform their communities and those that use Spanish as a means of communication.

3. ICS Teaching & Learning Philosophy

ICS Standards

ICS has a standards-based approach to education. This means we have clear and objective targets (standards) for learning in every subject, at every grade level. In the liberal arts (Math, Science and the Humanities) we emphasise the importance of knowledge, which is the basis for much of what we call 'skills'. In the creative arts (Music, Art and Drama) we emphasise the quality of both technique and interpretation. In Physical Education and Health we develop standards of physical capacity and skill.

Assessing learning of these standards is achieved by the use of proficiency rubrics, which clearly delineate a continuum from 'below standard' to 'approaching standard' to 'meeting standard' to 'exceeding standard'. Both formative and summative assessments are appropriate to the subject-specific standards. Theology is the 'Queen of the Sciences', and so the Bible has the pre-eminent place in our curriculum, training students in a Biblical worldview and understanding of the 'whole counsel of God'.

ICS Teaching & Learning Principles

- The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct
- We use evidence-based practice founded on good cognitive science
- Optimal learning is knowledge-based and teacher-directed
- The teaching cycle: explicit instruction, modelling, practice, feedback
- The essence of a liberal arts education is deep reading, thinking, writing and discussion, in pursuit of goodness, truth and beauty.
- We prioritise the known benefits of physical reading and handwriting
- We prepare students to operate effectively in a dual-modal society: departmental handbooks outline where digital technology is effective in enhancing learning, and our curriculum policy details education in digital literacy
- ICS partners with parents in mitigating the harms associated with screen-based childhood and learning, including our policies on homework and device-use

Assessment

Formative assessment refers to a variety of methods teachers use to gather evidence of students' academic progress over time. Formative feedback to students aims to help students understand what to aim for and how to achieve that.

Summative assessments are high-stakes assessments that are used to evaluate students' proficiency against ICS Standards in a particular unit, semester, or course.

4. Spanish Department Curriculum Links

- **Curriculum Introduction**

The Spanish program for high school students at ICS prioritizes placement based on individual interests and prior learning to ensure a tailored educational experience. Instruction is primarily in Spanish, with English support for clarity when needed. The Spanish program seeks to foster a deeper connection with the language and its vibrant communities.

- **Middle School**

Content:

Middle School Spanish 1 Scope and Sequence

Middle School Spanish 2 Scope and Sequence

- **High School**

Content:

High School Spanish 1 Scope and Sequence

High School Spanish 2 Scope and Sequence

High School Spanish 3 Scope and Sequence

High School Spanish 4 Scope and Sequence

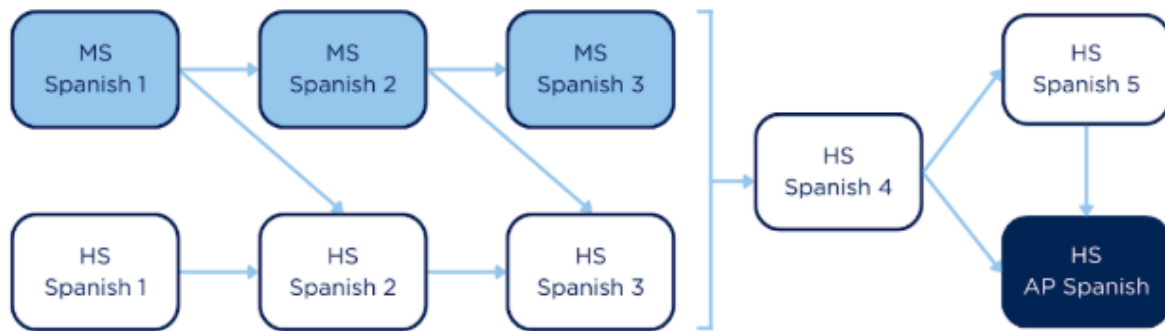
High School Spanish 5 Scope and Sequence

HS Ap Spanish Language and Culture Scope and Sequence

- **Spanish - World Languages Pathways Grade 6 - Grade 12**

[Secondary Course Pathways - High School Course Guide](#)

Spanish Pathway Course Pathways



5. School & Department Policies

- **General Classroom Practice**

Hard-copy course textbooks and novels are maintained in the library and classrooms. Students maintain Spanish notebooks which must be brought to every lesson. Teachers are responsible for communicating Unit Rubrics at the beginning of every Unit of Study to students and parents as well as feedback on every assessment against the rubric.

- **Homework Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Homework Policy](#)

- **Technology Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Technology Policy](#)

- **Assessment Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Secondary Assessment Policy](#)

- **Health and Safety**

Risk Assessments: Regular assessments to ensure a safe learning environment. All such guidelines are maintained in the [ICS Safety and Security Policy](#)

6. Co-curricular Clubs, Trips and Activities

- **Clubs**

- Spanish language and culture club.

- **Trips**

- Spanish immersion in Hong Kong Island: looking at the city with Latin-American eyes.

- **Activities**

- The ICS Spanish Department supports students in several competitions and cultural activities within the ICS community:
- Competitions (piñata making, guacamole making, salsa tasting).
- Celebrations (Colombian Valentine's Day, Navidad, Día de Reyes, Día de la Independencia de México, Hispanic Month)
- Cooking show (exclusive of Spanish 4).
- Different culinary cooking or tasting experiences (tacos, tamales, tortillas, buñuelos, salsas, paella, arepas, rosca de reyes, pan dulce)