

Dear Future Spanish AP Student,

Wooooo!! You made it through Spanish III!! Although it may not have been the easiest class, all of the knowledge you gained throughout the year will definitely help you and prepare you in so many ways this next year of Spanish IV. As part of taking the AP course, you are required to take the AP exam which consists of 5 tasks. There is a large portion of multiple choice, writing an email, writing a persuasive essay, a guided conversation, and a cultural comparison presentation. This may seem intimidating but I can assure you that if you trust in Mrs. Bracksieck and put in the work, you will be a successful AP student next year.

First of all, after having Mrs. Bracksieck for one year of Spanish it will help by making you feel more comfortable. A lot of this course involves speaking with peers or to the teacher so by already knowing Mrs. Bracksieck you should feel completely unworried about speaking. One thing I wished I should've done was to speak the language more in class. Speaking Spanish in class is one of the best ways to better your speaking skills because you have classmates and a teacher who are willing to help you improve your skills. This will benefit you during the guided conversation and cultural comparison because it will enhance the natural flow of words. I also highly recommend taking your MEAs seriously. This will get you used to hearing the language and also gaining cultural knowledge which is used in every part of the AP exam.

For me, the most challenging part of Spanish IV was multiple choice questions. It is very hard to read long passages and answer comprehension questions all while staying focused in English...now imagine that in Spanish! This task will be difficult, but Mrs. Bracksieck will make sure you perform well on it if you are willing to put in the work. Albert.io, which helps with multiple choice, can seem like an unnecessary thing to do, but take it seriously!!! It will end up helping you so much on the AP exam. Also, whenever Mrs. Bracksieck talks you through each passage, question, and answer, it will be a pain but I promise you it is worth it in the end.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the time you have in this class. Although there are times when you will not want to be in class, not want to speak the language at all, or even think that you won't do well on the AP exam, know that you have classmates who are also going through the same thing, previous students of the class who would love to share advice, and a supportive teacher who wants to help you succeed. Just from this one class, I've learned things no other class could offer and made many friendships and memories. After the whole school year, this class seems like a family with the many shared laughs and stories we have had. I hope you can experience the same and wish you the best of luck next year in Spanish IV Ap!!

¡Buena Suerte!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Haley Ngo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "¡Buena Suerte!".

Dear future AP student,

Congrats! You survived your first year of Spanish with Señora Bracksieck! Did your Spanish get any better? If so, I hope you're ready for the next step... AP Spanish IV.

Alright, so I know that you may have some doubts about this, considering foreign language might not be your strongest subject, but I'm here to gladly share my opinion and advice from my personal experience from this year!

First of all, the term AP may mislead you to think that this will be a long year of memorizing material and a ton of lectures to prepare you for the big test. But no. Spanish differs from all the other AP classes in many ways. You are always interacting with your peers and learning from all aspects of Hispanic culture. Real life experiences and communication will be your key to success, rather than a textbook full of facts.

If you aced Spanish III, or even if you managed to understand most of what Ms. Bracksieck said in class, then YES, absolutely take on the challenges of AP. Writing e-mails, engaging in conversations, and persuasive essays might seem like an insanely difficult task at first, but the truth is, it really isn't. Through the course of the year, you will improve because Ms. Bracksieck will give you enough practice and . Practice makes perfect. By spring or so, you'll be writing these as if they were routine, and the AP exam will be a walk in the park.

My main tip for you is to not be shy and engage in conversations. Even if your Spanish isn't the best, don't worry, I promise it will be way better than it ever was by the time the AP exam comes around. This is probably the only AP exam where they score you based on the words that come out of your mouth, so your speaking is extremely important. Like I said, through practice, you will improve, especially in a great environment for conversation like Ms. Bracksieck's class. Stay engaged, and make friends with great people. I also highly recommend that you make an effort to extend your knowledge of the language through new vocabulary, phrases, and cultural understanding. This can be effortless if you watch TV or shows, even on Netflix, with some form of Spanish you can comprehend.

This class was not the easiest one by any means, but even through multiple struggles of bad speaking performances or some poor writing, I learned from my mistakes and eventually became a pro at many of the tasks. I finished all 6-weeks with A's, and trust me, that was not difficult to achieve at all. I just finished my AP exam. Yes, it was quite tough, but my Spanish has come such a long way, and my confidence level in speaking the language is higher than ever before. I am certain that I passed, and possibly even excelled.

I know you will make the right decision and challenge yourself with AP. It's definitely worth it!

Sincerely,
Nick Luu



Dear Future AP Student:

Ap Spanish IV seems extremely intimidating, I know, but I promise everything you have done and everything you will do is going to help you succeed in this class. I came into this class so stressed because I wasn't confident in my Spanish skills, but now after taking it I have realized I have nothing to be worried about. The whole class is set up around teaching you the skills necessary for the AP test. Throughout the year you will do activities that will help you succeed on the tasks of the exam (multiple choice, conversation, cultural comparison, email, and persuasive essay).

In order to succeed I recommend that you do all the tasks that Mrs. B assigns, which isn't a lot by the way. Mrs. B is very good at getting her lesson across and teaching the lesson without giving you so much work that you don't want to do it. The one that was most helpful for me was speaking to other students or people who know the language. The best thing you can do to prepare yourself for the test is knowing the language, and the only way (also the easiest way) to do that is to use the language almost everyday. This may seem weird at first but once you start doing it the language becomes so natural and easy that taking the AP test seems like a breeze, even if your not a native speaker. Also I recommend that you find a friend or make friends with a native speaker and talk with them in Spanish. I did this last year and I truly believe it's the only way I bettered my Spanish because I wasn't afraid or nervous to talk to them so I was able to use my Spanish and they were able to help me correct my Spanish. Lastly I recommend that you just relax and do the work because I promise that Mrs.B knows what she is doing and is honestly one of the best teachers I've ever had, she's fun and chill yet makes you do your work and teaches you what you need to know, and if you do the work she provides and you put a little effort in it is extremely easy to receive an A or high B in the class and succeed on your AP exam. Good luck on your exam and in the class!

Sincerely,



Brooke Wakefield

Dear Prospective Spanish 4 Student,

I just completed 4 years of Spanish and have vastly improved my ability to speak, write and read in Spanish. You are planning to enroll in a class that comes with high expectations and continuous assessment which requires a good deal of effort. Every day we spent time perfecting the four skills necessary for learning a foreign language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Since learning a foreign language isn't a new skill for you, you should expect to work hard in this class; you should be prepared to study on your own as well as complete the daily homework. Such pacing requires that every student keeps up with the daily classwork and homework, participates in class every day, and learns the vocabulary and grammar each night to prepare for the next day's class. In addition, every day in class you will be required to speak in Spanish, not English. However, the benefits you will reap from this class transcend past the classroom or AP test. You will learn more about various Hispanic cultures which allow you to become more culturally aware. Cultural awareness allows you to destroy racial stereotypes and defeat preexisting notions of ignorance. Finally, Mrs. Bracksieck is an incredible teacher, who has the rare passion for teaching. She guides all her students through the class and gives valuable incite to each segment of the AP test. In conclusion, I highly recommend you take this exam and continue your Spanish journey.


Sincerely,

Ibbi Sheikh

Dear future AP student,

As a native speaker, Spanish tends to come more naturally for me. However, this class taught me many things that I didn't know before and many things I'll utilize in the future. I learned not only new vocabulary words, but I also learned where to place accents, which was always confusing to me. Anyways, I'm here to give you some advice. The first thing that I highly suggest, be prepared to make many mistakes and in front of everyone. I'm honestly very grateful for the classroom. Spanish became a class that I was excited to be in because of how comfortable I felt there. Don't be embarrassed to try and fail, Mrs. Bracksieck and the whole class is there to help. Secondly, practice, practice, and practice some more. Learning a new language will be frustrating and challenging, but if you practice it will get easier. Just talking in the class with your classmates makes a big difference. Lastly, ask lots of questions!! I cannot stress this enough. Mrs. Bracksieck will help you the best she can and I've learned a lot by just asking questions. Something I wish I would have done is practiced on my spelling and I wish I would have learned some higher academic words. Nevertheless, I felt very prepared for the exam. Something that served me well were honestly the MEAs. Yes, sometimes they were a pain to do, but all in all they helped me. I got in to some shows from Spain, which also gave me some insight of the culture in Spain. Also, learning about all the different cultures and comparing it to our own, which is a part of our AP exam by the way, was interesting and one of my favorite parts. This Spanish class was very beneficial and I loved all the memories that we created there. From the crazy lip syncs to the story times, it is a class I will never forget and I guarantee you won't either. Don't worry it's not as bad as it looks. I hoped this helped and good luck!

Sincerely,


Denise Marin

Dear future AP student,

Last year I took AP Spanish 4. If I could go back and redo it there are many things I would do differently. I wish I would have used the resources Mrs. Bracksieck gave me more. I also wish I would have taken the homework more seriously and changed my mindset about the class. I always looked at the class as something I had to do just to get a credit, but I think I would have benefitted so much more if I had tried to want to become better at speaking or writing in Spanish. This course is all about applying yourself and being willing to put in the extra work it takes to improve on the concepts you struggle with. I would be lying if I said it was easy, but it is definitely doable.

Don't become discouraged if you are struggling in the class. Everyone does at some point. There are a few things I found that helped me so much during this class. I suggest finding a show that's in Spanish and watch it. There are many good shows, for example, I always watched El Internado or Extra. Also, speak it as much as you can. In class always try to speak only Spanish and if someone you're close to can speak it, practice with them. I also found that Albert.io helped me a lot if I actually tried my best to understand what it was saying and answering the questions.

Other things that I found helpful are to get together with your friends to study. Throughout the year my friends and I would always meet up somewhere just to go over whatever we were doing in class and it was very beneficial. Also, don't be scared to ask Mrs. Bracksieck for help, she wants to help you. Lastly, make this class a priority. Work a little extra on it if you need to.

Overall, I really enjoyed this class and learned a lot of important things that will help me throughout my life. I liked how there were not many written tests so it really tested your skills and not what you could memorize. It was a really fun class and was worth the struggles.

Love,

Carli Davis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carli Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Dear future students of Spanish 4 AP,

This class is very divertido, but also difficult. Everyday there is always an activity to help improve your spanish skills. My dad is from Venezuela and I hear him speak all the time, but in class you can't really get by with just speaking. What I mean is, you also have to improve in other skills such as writing, culture knowledge, comparing, and thinking under pressure. It's a little intimidating at first, but your teacher will help you. If there are ever questions raise your hand, seriously don't be afraid, because most likely someone else is just as confused as you are. A month before the test you will begin to feel stressed out and think you're not prepared for the exam, but trust me, with Mrs. Bracksieck by your side you will be. What I liked most about this class was being able to speak spanish everyday, at times it wasn't correct, but I had friends to correct me. At the end of the school year all your classmates will become your best friends. You learn their names, you're able to help each other, and at times be crazy weird with them. The one thing I disliked about this class was everyday, and I mean everyday, you will be learning something. I'm a senior, so maybe that's why. But I do have to admit, everything I learned was needed to prepare for the exam. I have some tips, students. One, learn the vocab and process the words and use them-I wish that I had practiced them more-and two, understand imperfect subjunctive, and subjunctive. It takes a while to understand, so ask questions or go to tutorials. Spanish 4 isn't a blow-off class, so be prepared to work.



Savannah Ramirez

Dear Future AP Student,

Congrats! You've made it to Spanish IV. This is something to be very proud of. You've worked so hard. Now to be successful, there are things you must do. Number 1: Work. This may sound obvious, but you actually have to put in the work. Slacking off will not get you a good score on the AP exam. Number 2: MEAs are crucial, this silly little tic-tac-toe worksheet is actually very helpful. It exposes you to Spanish in your day to day life, and it may be the only Spanish that you experience outside of school. Number 3: Try to speak Spanish outside of school. The more you practice, the better you become. Number 4: When given guided conversations in advance, practice. Guided conversations may be the hardest things for non-speakers because they make you think quick. So when you get the guided conversation early, listen to it. Deconstruct it. Make sure you fully understand everything being said so when it's time to do it for a grade, it's a piece of cake. Number 5: Pay attention to the culture. Knowing culture gives you a leg up on all the free response parts on the AP exam. The graders like culture. And lastly, number 5: Participate. Be active in class discussions, debates, and even the warm ups in the beginning of class. These things may sound trivial and tedious, but I assure you, they are super beneficial for the exam and just learning Spanish in general. I wish I did these things more, especially number 3 and 5. I wish I didn't take the class for granted and really committed myself more to it. I wouldn't recommend this class unless you're willing to work. But don't worry, your hard work will pay off. During the year we got to do a lot of fun stuff like read to preschoolers and watch Spanish dances. Oh and my favorite thing, eat. But anyway, back to my point: work hard, study hard, learn Spanish, pass the AP exam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Josie Chi', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josie Chi

Dear Future AP Student:

Congratulations on considering AP Spanish for the 2017-2018 school year. As a student that has almost finished the course, I have some advice that might help you.

Try to familiarize yourself with the style of the AP test. You'll also need to get used to speaking without careful preparation. In Spanish III, it was tempting to try to write and memorize a presentation. But in Spanish IV, you'll need to let go of memorization. It may seem intimidating, but start completely with what you have. Don't try to fake it. I promise your Spanish will get better.


One of the things that I did that helped me prepare for the AP test was getting used to reading Spanish outside of class. I recommend downloading an app like BBC Mundo and reading a bit about Spanish countries every morning.

Also, find some music or a TV show in Spanish that you actually like. It's easy to get hooked on watching telenovelas or listening to your favorite Spanish artists. This practice really helps expand your vocabulary.

The biggest mistake I made when I started Spanish IV was not taking the multiple-choice portions of the test seriously. Although it sounds like the easiest part of the exam, I had an easier time with the written and spoken sections than I did with the reading passages. I would recommend buying one or two review guides and accessing the College Board website or Mrs. Bracksieck's new website for practice. The more you practice with these materials, the easier the test will become.

Finally, don't be intimidated by the coursework at first. You'll have to trust Mrs. Bracksieck (she knows what she's doing, I promise). By the end of the class, you *will* be ready for the exam. Have fun, and I wish you the best of luck in Spanish IV!

Sincerely,



Margaret Dorsey

Dear future AP Spanish 4 student,

First and foremost, congratulate yourself for having the drive and motivation to continue through four years of Spanish. As you immerse yourself into this next school year of Spanish class, be prepared to learn more about the Spanish language and culture than you could have ever imagined. Despite your prior knowledge to the language, it is inevitable you will feel overwhelmed at first, but if you dedicate some time and effort to the class, there is no doubt that you will be successful.

The Spanish 4 class at George Ranch is based around learning as much about language and culture as possible while preparing for the AP exam all at the same time. The AP exam is made up of five different components, which consist of 65 multiple-choice questions, a written email, persuasive essay, guided conversation, and a cultural comparison. While this sounds completely overwhelming and may go way over your head at first, if you trust in Mrs. Bracksieck's method for success, put aside time to study for the class, and try your absolute hardest to immerse yourself into the Spanish culture, success will come easily. One piece of advice to achieve success would be to take all assignments seriously, such as Albert.io, MEAs, and multiple-choice questions. Also, do not ever hesitate to ask questions to Mrs. Bracksieck or any classmates because everyone is in the same boat, and Mrs. Bracksieck cares for each student individually and will strive to make sure all of her students push beyond their limits, so they can reach their goals.

Even though the class requires a lot of hard work, do not let the idea of the AP exam frighten you because there is so much to look forward to in this class. First of all, a new student will present their culture project every Friday for several months, and it gives the entire class opportunities to learn about the Spanish-speaking countries through presentations along with authentic food for the entire class to taste. Also, one of my favorite memories from this past year was getting to read a storybook to kids at a Spanish-speaking pre school because it was an amazing chance to first-handedly see how native speaking children interact at their school in comparison to how we do. Without a doubt, the Latina dance show field trip was an unforgettably fun experience that the whole class enjoyed. Most importantly, the bond between my classmates and Mrs. Bracksieck is unbreakable, and I would not trade any of the memories I have made with them for anything in the world.

Overall, do not allow the AP exam or summer packet scare you at all because this class is 100%, without a doubt worth taking. The friendships you build and the abundance of knowledge you learn are never ending and are only one of hundreds of reasons why you should continue on your journey through Spanish. I am forever grateful to have learned so much from Mrs. Bracksieck in this class this past year, and I am absolutely confident this class will positively impact you the same way it did for me. At the end of the day, I am definite you will achieve success in this class simply by following instructions and listening to such a wonderful teacher that you are so lucky to learn from. I wish you the best of luck in your journey through Spanish 4!

Sincerely,

Caroline Krafchuck

Dora Mendez

05/05/17.

Period: 4th

Dear future AP Spanish IV student

Congratulations on signing up for this wonderful class! Be prepared to work really hard so you can get a high score on the AP exam, but don't worry you'll have a lot of fun along the way too! Some advice I have for you is to stay focused on the topic you're learning and to memorize some phrases that will help you in activities and assignments. I am a native born Spanish speaker so I did not have trouble in this class, but I can tell you I did not expect the class to be fun. This class brought me closer to new people and you get to interact with everyone. You will have fun projects that will involve food and also story telling. What I really liked about this class was the field trips we took (and I also went to the Spain trip) and the only thing I didn't like about this class was that we didn't do any dress up days as in dress up as a Spanish culture. I hope you have a lot of fun in this class and if you ever need any help come find me, I'll be a junior so just ask around.

Tu amiga,

Dora Mendez Garza

Dora Mendez Garza