

Future PAP Spanish III Student,

Spanish III PAP will probably be an intimidating class at first, only because it is primarily speaking and presentations in front of the class, which take a while to get used to. However, once you get into the school year, presenting will get less nerve-wracking as you gain experience. If you do your work, try your very best on every assignment, and focus on improving throughout the year, this class will be an easy A. To achieve good grades, I prepared for each presentation and presented each project to the best of my ability. Studying my vocabulary and grammar was very beneficial, and is a must for this class. Throughout the year, Mrs. Bracksieck will introduce new academic vocabulary, phrases, idioms, and Spanish synonyms. These will come in handy for major grade projects or speaking activities in general; inserting them into your presentation will definitely boost your grade and help your Spanish sound authentic.

For me, this class was a challenge, but it was rewarding because my Spanish improved so much from where I had started. If I had the chance to take the class again, there are some things that I would do differently. For one, I was overly focused on my Spanish being absolutely perfect and I stayed in my comfort zone for a little while. Eventually I learned that I was being unreasonable. Everyone is going to make mistakes. Take risks, because getting out of your comfort zone and learning from past mistakes are what's going to make you a better Spanish speaker. In addition, do not procrastinate until the night before your presentation. I did this plenty of times during the year. It makes the project more stressful than it needs to be, and rushing is going to cause more obvious errors. Prepare ahead of time. It makes a huge difference in the overall experience of Spanish III.

Lastly, if I had one piece of advice for you, it would be to not get discouraged if you aren't progressing fast enough, or making perfect grades in the beginning. Everyone learns different ways and at different paces. Stick with the class! Spanish is very worthwhile to have in the future, and the skills you acquire in Spanish III will not only prepare you for future Spanish classes, but also for other classes and opportunities too. Have fun, and try your best.

Good Luck,

Brocke Johnson

Dear Future Spanish III PAP Student,

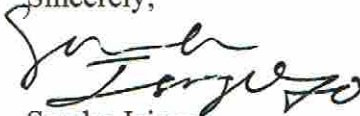
First of all, this letter I'm writing right now is probably the easiest thing I've done all year for this class. Now, obviously you've decided to take Spanish III PAP. Well buena suerte it's no easy task. In my opinion this course isn't too difficult once you get the hang of it, but don't get me wrong, it's not a "blow-off" class. You actually do have to put in effort and know what you're doing.

This class is immensely different from Spanish I & Spanish II. Being able to talk about the world in Spanish was my favorite thing about this class. We have discussions about the real world and it's interesting to hear other's opinions. We also learn a lot of interesting things about other subjects. I actually found myself being able to relate some things I learned in Spanish class to my other core classes. We don't only learn through textbooks either, we watch videos, research, and do many other things.

My first tip to you, whenever something is assigned do it ASAP because the due date will be so far away that you either procrastinate or completely forget about it. If you don't start it soon you've already caught an L because no one is going to remind you unless you make friends with the smart people. Which brings me to another tip, make good friends. I recommend that you find a couple of friends and create a study group. My last tip would be not to use Google Translate. If you need a good translator, I recommend SpanishDict. However, I don't suggest that you just translate all your projects with it because then you're not really learning anything and it's really obvious to your teacher.

If I could redo this year, I would study more and speak more Spanish. Honestly, if you want to get the most out of this class you have to speak Spanish outside of class. The more comfortable you get with speaking Spanish the better this class will be. A lot of the grades come from speaking, presenting, and interpreting. There are still vocabulary quizzes so when you know that one is coming up that should be an easy A. I would definitely suggest using Quizlet if you don't already use it. Also, there is a grade for participation so always keep that in mind during warm ups/bell ringers.

Hopefully this letter will help you prepare for next year. I believe in you all.

Sincerely,

Sandra Isiguzo

Dear Future Spanish III students,

The school year you have ahead of you will be quite the challenge. It is your choice to make it fun or not! Each one of you moved on to Spanish 3 which means you have a bit of, if not a full passion for Spanish, and that will surely help you succeed this year! I have a few pointers to help you achieve greatness this year. Firstly, don't procrastinate, don't, don't, don't! You will not get it all the way done and it will not be a very good presentation, speech, conversation, etc. Secondly, Mrs. Bracksieck can tell who has put in effort into whatever the assignment is and she will grade accordingly, so try your best. Lastly, have fun, be creative, and do not be afraid to ask questions. After all, that is how you learn. A tip to help with your Spanish during the year is to always review over that day's lesson when you get home or whenever you have free time. Always, always, ALWAYS be looking for opportunities to speak outside of class, it helps your Spanish and gets you brownie points with Mrs. Bracksieck ☺ I loved Spanish 3, everything about it, but my favorite thing was actually learning the language through different presentations, readings, and videos. I also really enjoyed spending the year with Mrs. Bracksieck, she is truly one of the best teachers I have ever had and I hope that you enjoy having her as much as I do! You're going to have a great year!

Sincerely,

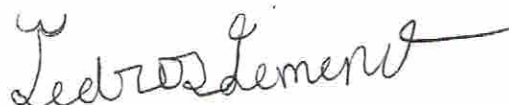
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abigail Brown". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop in the 'B'.

Abigail Brown, Previous Spanish III student
and Future Spanish IV student

Dear future PAP student,

Spanish 3 is completely different than Spanish 2 so beware. There are basically no similarities in the curriculum so don't expect to coast as I did while in Spanish 2. For starters, Spanish 2 was basically about memorizing grammar like conjugations in several different tenses along with learning vocabulary , and you mastered that context by taking tests. In comparison, Spanish 3 brings along a whole new dynamic: conversing. You no longer apply your Spanish skills by taking tests you do real life applications such as conversations, things related to hispanic culture, etc. Knowing this, the best way to prepare is by making sure you know how to say basic things that keep a conversation and phrases that could help you reply to what other people are saying. Additionally, I wish I knew that in Spanish 3, there would be no tests or easy quizzes. It was a hard transition from Spanish 2. My grade fell from 95+ in Spanish 2 to an 83 the very first six weeks of PAP Spanish. Luckily for me it hasn't been a continuing trend and I have been able to raise my grade significantly. While being able to learn Spanish should be the most important part, your grade is just as important (in my opinion) so don't take any minor grades lightly because everything adds up, which is a lesson I learned after the first six weeks came to an end. Señora Bracksieck was very helpful to me throughout Spanish 3 so even if it seems she's grading you hard, she keeps the class very straightforward and nothing really surprises you. Finally, I want to wish you good luck, if you put in the work necessary to succeed, you can live with the results.

Sincerely, Tedros Zemene

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tedros Zemene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dear future Spanish PAP students,

My best advice to give would be to utilize the 6 weeks calendar Mrs. Bracksieck gives you at the beginning of each grading period. I would recommend checking the calendar at the beginning of each week, so you can prepare accordingly for what is coming up in the weeks following. In addition, it is important to follow project rubrics word for word, and exceed the minimum amount of effort to make it easier for Mrs. Bracksieck to give you that 100 that you want. Also, it is essential that you prepare for every project early, and not just the night before, because Mrs. Bracksieck can tell. She usually assigns other projects and assignments at the same time, and if you don't plan ahead, it will build up and create a lot of unneeded stress. So basically, don't procrastinate.

During presentations, make sure you speak loudly, and with confidence, to show Mrs. Bracksieck that you prepared well for the presentation. In Spanish this year, I believe we have had at least one oral presentation, usually memorized, to present in front of the class. So it is very important that you get over your nerves because it doesn't go away.

In conclusion, Spanish has been an amazing experience that I don't regret. It has improved my speaking in both English and Spanish, and my public speaking skills. In addition, Spanish has taught me the culture of Spanish countries and has led me to appreciate what we have in America, which we take for granted.

Sincerely,

Andrew Spencer

Jenna Murray

Dear Spanish III Student,

I hope you are excited for the upcoming school year. I know you are probably nervous about taking Spanish III this year, just how I was, but I am so glad that you chose to take this class. Spanish III is not an easy class, but if you keep up with your homework and stay organized, this year will be very rewarding. Spanish III is the year that you finally get to apply all of the grammar and vocabulary that you learned the past two years to actually speaking the language. This year you will become more comfortable with speaking Spanish and presenting in front of your classmates.

It is important that you use your Spanish skills not only in the classroom, but with friends in other classes and family as well. I have learned this year that you don't have to study as much at home if you participate in class; Mrs. Bracksiesk has a reason for every activity that she plans for class and participating will only improve your Spanish skills. It is also important to make flashcards or Quizlets for yourself when it comes to memorizing vocabulary, repetition of writing and reading words help your brain retain the information for your quizzes and tests. Also, one of the most important things to remember when learning a new language is: don't be afraid to make mistakes.

In Spanish III, most of the activities are centered on improving your speaking, so listening to music or even watching movies in Spanish will help you tremendously. This year, I learned that it is important to always look at the calendar. At the beginning of the year, Mrs. Bracksieck will remind you about assignments or major grades, but towards the end it becomes your responsibility to know when your assignments are due. So, getting into the habit of using your own calendar or agenda will definitely help you to be more successful this year.

When learning a new language, it is important that you do not limit your opportunities to improve your speaking by staying in your comfort zone. Throughout the next year you will get to participate in activities that you may not be a fan of or that you love, but remember that they will all cause you to improve your skills in the class if you complete them correctly. Another thing that I learned this year is to always prepare yourself ahead of time so that you will not just memorize the material for that class period, but actually learn it so that you may use it later in assignments or life. So, remember to participate as much as you can in class, don't be afraid to ask questions or make a mistake, and have fun with new things that you learn in class. Good luck this year in Spanish III, it will be a great year and I guarantee that you will finish the last semester glad that you chose to take this class.

Good luck,

A Former Spanish III Student - Jenna Murray

Dear future Spanish Three student

I'm going to tell you right off the bat; this is a very interesting course. There aren't really any tests in the class, just quizzes and projects (weird projects). When I walked in on the first day, there was a lot of Spanish, and I mean a lot. On the walls, boards, papers, even Mrs. Bracksieck spoke a lot in Spanish. It was very intimidating! If there is anything I've learned though, it's that you cannot be scared. The best advice I can personally offer you is to not be scared. There are a lot of other students with you and let's be honest, they all can't speak the language well (yet). What I mean is that everyone is going to make mistakes in the class when talking, and I cannot stress enough how important it is to not worry about the errors that are made. This isn't necessarily, a class that you need to study for because it is mostly about preparation; however, a little bit of looking over your vocab and information before quizzes and tests will help. Also, if you pay attention in the class, you will pass, guaranteed. I genuinely liked the course and it was a lot of fun. Mrs. Bracksieck will talk a lot about trying to get you out of your comfort zone, and that is exactly what she does. Let me tell you, that helps a lot. I really think you will enjoy this class and I hope you do well in it.

Sincerely,

Ryan Murray

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'M'.

Dear Future Spanish III PAP student,

Spanish 3 PAP is hard. Let's get that out of the way. This class is not a walk in the park. Mrs.Bracksieck makes it her mission to challenge you every six weeks. And while I hate to admit it, you do improve. You refine the skills you learned in Spanish I and Spanish II, while learning skills to make you a more competent Spanish speaker. There are very few written assessments due to the focus of this course being speaking. Mrs.Bracksieck finds very creative ways to make you more comfortable with the language, and when you finish this course, I promise you will have improved greatly compared to when you entered.

Best of Luck,

Aamaya Khan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aamaya Khan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dear future PAP students,

Spanish III PAP is the beginning of *true* Spanish. This class incorporates extensive, authentic Spanish speaking and the discussion of the Hispanic world all into the span of two short semesters that is designed to test how motivated you are to learn more about Spanish and the culture associated with the language. To succeed in this class, you must embrace the fact that once you enter the Spanish hallway every word uttered must be in Spanish. This will ultimately assist you in the monthly guided conversations assigned as major grades that entail total Spanish speaking with a peer about a randomly assigned topic. You must also be prepared to brush up on your Spanish grammar that will be used daily when you walk into the class for warm ups. My negligence of grammar made the transition to Spanish III quite difficult at times so I strongly suggest you learn from my mistake. After the challenging first semester, Spanish begins to ease up due to the introduction of Spanish culture. This unit dedicates a whole week to student made presentations and activities focused on multiple aspects of the Hispanic culture such as dances, food, and literature that is taken as another major grade and is even considered to be one of the more “fun” projects we do all year long. The second semester also includes the dreaded beauty project that requires many to venture outside their comfort zone to describe the definition of beauty. As Spanish III winds to a close, especially the last 6 weeks, teachers really turn up the heat in preparation for AP with numerous guided conversation over the headphones to expose us to the vigor of Spanish IV AP. In conclusion, Spanish III PAP is a class that truly teaches the Spanish language and its usage in the real world, all the while vigorously preparing you for success at the AP level.

Sincerely,

Amin

Shahin

Dear Future Spanish III PAP Student,

Hello student, my name is Andrew. Spanish III is one of the tougher PAP classes if you are not prepared, that's why I am here to help you. Now, first off, in Spanish III, you must have a good foundation and understanding for the language. I would highly recommend that you complete the summer packet by yourself and without cheating (something I regret not doing). Also, in Spanish III, you will be pushed out of your comfort zone a lot. You will be expected to lip sync songs, have full length conversations, and do numerous presentations all in Spanish. In fact, majority of our grades in Spanish III deal with actually speaking the language and not just taking quizzes or tests. To prepare for this constant challenge of speaking in front of the class in a foreign language, I would speak Spanish outside of the class room and just become more comfortable with public speaking in general. As far as quizzes and tests go, I would mainly just focus on verb tenses (especially subjunctive) and basic vocabulary. In conclusion, Spanish III should be easy as long as you practice and prepare. It was a fun class for me because the conversations and presentations can get funny and entertaining sometimes. I really liked Spanish III and you will, too. Just don't over-stress it.

Sincerely,

Andrew Reid

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Reid", is positioned below the typed name.

Dear incoming Spanish III PAP students,

Honestly Spanish is difficult and requires a lot of work, however, it is also extremely rewarding. One of the most amazing things about being is Spanish is when you realize "oh woah I just understood all of that!" or "wait what was I thinking in Spanish" and that is such a cool moment because you can see how much you have grown as a Spanish speaker.

I can wholeheartedly say I grew immensely by taking this class, but there are several things I would have done differently. First of all, just do the homework. It usually doesn't take too long and it is only assigned when it's something valuable and necessary. Second, study for the quizzes and tests. Most grades in this class are presentational but make sure you study for the few pen on paper grades. Also, actually try to learn. Even if you are just there for the multiplayer, it really is so interesting learning about other cultures and problems in places besides our community. But last of all and maybe the most important, don't use google translate. Its unreliable and SpanishDict is way better.

Two things that really helped me were flashcards and friends. Vocabulary is critical to excelling in this class. Quizlet has so many fantastic decks that really help for the quizzes and presentations. Also, it was super helpful because I made friends in the class. Learning Spanish is just way more fun when you can talk or text with a friend in it, plus no one knows everything so friends are super useful when you are aren't sure what the warm-up means or need someone to check your grammar.

Another thing that is really great about this class is the teacher. Mrs. Bracksieck is super passionate about teaching and Spanish and so she gives her all to the class and really just wants kids to learn. She's not the kind of teacher who is condescending when you are confused or is just there for the pay check. She never gives us off days and sometimes that can be exhausting but in the end, you can see how much you have learned. She genuinely cares about her students and their growth and it's honestly so refreshing because its hard to find teachers who care so much as you reach higher levels of education.

I hope everyone can get the most out of this class and really get inspired by another culture and language. Its super worth it and I don't regret taking it for a second!

Wishing you all of the luck,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Gonzales". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Morgan Gonzales