

Mountain Brook Schools Elementary Spanish Program

In the elementary school, every student takes Spanish once a week. The program is modeled after an exploratory world languages program. The 5C's Standards for Foreign Languages are included when planning our lessons (Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connections, and Communities). Also, we structure our program to fulfill the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

Kindergarten through 2nd grades begin developing vocabulary and reading skills through the use of pictures and motions. Emphasis is placed on student oral participation. 3rd through 6th grades compare the English and Spanish alphabet and letter sounds. Speaking and reading activities are geared towards teaching students proper pronunciation. Writing is incorporated to help practice learned vocabulary, language structure, and communication skills. The goal is to be able to recognize Spanish outside the classroom and be able to start communicating orally and in writing. Culture is a big part of the Spanish program. The students are excited to learn about different cultures and compare them to their own. Technology has become an important tool in the classroom. We use engaging web-based games and programs that promote student learning and document their progress.

We see students on average 12 hours of instructional hours each year. Considering the limited time that we have with them, we are very proud of the results our program is achieving.