Syllabus – Modern Languages Room 108 Kennedy Middle School Mr. Wood (Sr. Madera)

**Course description**

Modern Languages is a one-trimester course designed to give students some very limited vocabulary and basic expressions, as well as a taste of foreign culture and customs, enabling them to determine whether Spanish and/or Mandarin are courses they would like to continue to pursue in the future. The Spanish portion of Modern Languages lasts roughly one half of one trimester; Spanish and Mandarin classes switch at/near the midway point.

The staples of the Modern Languages Spanish curriculum are the alphabet and numbers through one hundred. Students also learn colors, a basic conversation, and how different dialects of the same language develop through learning about words unique to Mexico. Time permitting, we may also learn days, months, seasons, weather expressions, courtesy, etc. Culturally, we listen to Hispanic music, celebrate a Hispanic holiday, learn how the language varies from country to country, etc. Students who enjoy and succeed in Modern Languages Spanish and think they may want to take Spanish I in eighth grade are strongly encouraged to take Intermediate Spanish in seventh grade. Spanish I is a high school level course offered a year early at KMS. Students in the state of Michigan are required to take two years of a high school level foreign language.

**Grading**

Grades in Modern Languages Spanish will be determined on the basis of a running point total – total points earned out of total points possible – of the following types of assignments:

* Quizzes – written and oral
* Projects
* Homework (class work not finished in allotted class time)
* Daily grades – question of the day and warm-up
* Final Exam

Parents are encouraged to use PowerSchool to stay current on their student’s progress. Parents and students are encouraged to use the class work/homework blog (twood.weebly.com), daily, to keep track of what’s going on in class, due dates for assignments, and other resources. Late assignments will be graded down at Mr. Wood’s discretion. Nametag checks will occur randomly. Extra credit will be offered on a limited basis – students are encouraged to present their own Spanish-related ideas to Mr. Wood for approval.

**Materials needed**

* *¡Buen viaje!* Spanish I textbook (provided)
* Writing utensil
* Folder or Binder

Students are expected to begin to take responsibility for their own learning and educational outcomes. An integral part of this is that they come to class prepared to learn, which means bringing materials and completed homework to class every day.

**Classroom conduct**

In lieu of a rigid set of rules, students are encouraged to use and develop their own judgment in determining actions and words which are A) respectful and B) responsible, and acting accordingly. Students repeatedly violating the respect and responsibility policy will face warnings and consequences at Mr. Wood’s discretion.

**Contact**

For daily/weekly updates, check my blog at your convenience: **twood.weebly.com**

Email (preferred): twood@lsps.org Phone: 285-8800 (prep time – third hour – 10:43-11:38)