Me llamo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ El español 1

 Señor Cohen

***Welcome back students:***

A new school year has arrived and I want to welcome you back hoping that you enjoyed the summer and that you are looking forward, as I am, to a very successful and exciting academic year. As your teacher, I expect you to set positive attainable academic goals.

Course Content:

We will begin the course with the geography of the Spanish speaking world and will continue with the introductory lessons in the textbook *Asi se dice 1*. The beginning lessons cover basic pronunciation and common everyday expressions necessary to communicate in Spanish. Each lesson’s content will be learned through the four major areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Spanish will be used as much as possible in class. Your active participation in all class activities will help you to have a successful, and hopefully, enjoyable experience.

 Level one at the high school can be difficult, especially since we cover in one year what the junior high covers in two years. This means that the pace is quicker, and that you must pay attention at all times!

 The NYS requirement is two years of a foreign language for a local diploma. Since you haven’t met this requirement, you need to be here and YOU NEED TO PASS!!! Please see me if you are unsure of your language standing.

 Some of you may find the content too difficult without extra help. If you feel this way, please come and see me so that we can discuss the problem and make proper arrangements. I am available after school for extra help sessions on an individual or group basis. I stay after school on Mondays or another day by appointment. If more extra help is needed, you should consider a private tutor. Please seek help before the tests and quizzes take place.

Course requirements:

1. **notebook** - I strongly recommend a three ring binder. There will be many handouts given throughout the year. The binder will help keep you organized. If you have already purchased a spiral notebook, a folder will help keep the dittos in order.
2. **textbook** –*Asi se dice 1*. This textbook will serve as the central part of the course. Ancillary materials such as videos, dvd’s, and a workbook will also be used. The textbooks are brand new and therefore it is important to take good care of them.
3. **dictionary ­**- It is not an official class requirement, but as we extend your vocabulary, you will find it to be a very useful resource.

Course grading:

**TESTS + QUIZZES + HOMEWORK + CLASS PARTICIPATION = QUARTER GRADE**

All grades are based on a total points system.

Oral grades are included as quiz grades unless they are part of a major test or project.

Each homework assignment counts toward the homework grade. Homework grades count as five points. If the assignment is not complete, it will not receive full credit. Half completed homework will receive two and half points. Additionally, homework less than half complete will not receive any credit. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of doing the homework consistently and thoroughly. **All tests and quizzes reflect the work covered in class and reviewed at home. If you understand the homework, you will experience success on the tests and quizzes.**

Class participation is extremely important. I keep track of everything you do in class and your participation grade will reflect this work. Going to the board and volunteering answers are two simple ways of receiving checks in this area. These checks will count towards your grade. Additionally, most students who fail level 1 do so because they do not participate in class on an everyday basis. If you don’t participate, you won’t be able to do the homework assignments, and you won’t be able to pass the tests and quizzes.

Make-ups:

 It is **your** responsibility to see that you are current on all assignments, tests, etc., not the teacher’s. Makeup’s are to be done within two days of a legal absence. Any exceptions must be discussed with me BEFORE the work is late. **NO MAKEUP = ZERO. CUTTING CLASS = ZERO.**

 If you are absent, you need to make up whatever work you missed within two days. You have to take the initiative to get the work from me, a classmate or my website, do it and hand it back to me within the prescribed time. Make use of my e-mail address at steven.cohen@wcsdny.org.

 Failure to hand in a project on time will result in a zero (0). I will not accept late projects. You will have plenty of time to do any assigned projects and to do them right!

I use a grading program to keep track of all your grades. You may ask to see your scores as you leave the classroom. I enter all grades as I finish grading your work, so your grade is usually up-to-date.