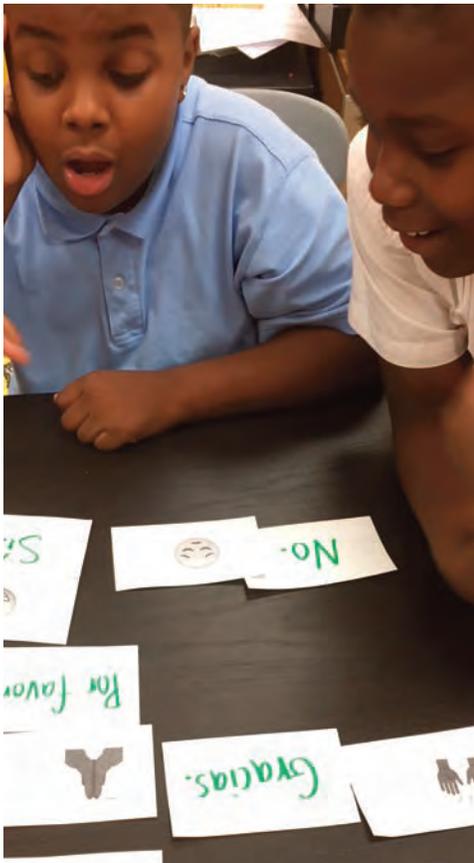




West's Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2018

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¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!

I'm so excited to be back at West! This will be my second year teaching Spanish to our students. Prior to coming to West, I taught in New York City and lived in Nicaragua as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

New Year, New Look

We have many changes this year that will support and personalize Spanish learning from our students. The classroom has been renovated so that students have new tables that will enable students to work on teams the majority of time; we have also received grant funding for additional technology that will bring the Spanish speaking world alive in our classroom. Classes will be structured so that all students will visit various "centers" to practice working on different language skills: reading, listening, writing, speaking and culture. One feature of this new approach is that students will spend additional time working with me in small groups to practice various skills, with a particular focus on speaking.

These centers will be designed using authentic materials as much as possible, including authentic reading materials, videos and cultural artifacts, in order to push students' thinking and intercultural understanding. For students who speak Spanish at home, we will have a variety of activities that we will use to focus on building their bi-literacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/17** Coffee with Principal Vroman @9am
- 9/18** Day of Reflection (Yom Kippur)
PSCO Meeting @6pm
- 9/26** Picture Day (Uniform Required)
- 9/28** Free dress Friday
- 10/4** Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
@5:30
- 10/8** No School

Support Your Scholar's Language Learning Journey

One big way to support your scholar's language learning outside of school is through technology. For students in grades 1-8, I will post Quizlet games with vocabulary for each unit on the "Class Story" in Class Dojo. In addition, I will be making Duolingo accounts for students, which is an app that students can practice beginning Spanish vocabulary across several skills. With 5 to 10 minutes of daily practice, students can boost their memory for vocabulary words and phrases significantly!

-Ms. Clayton



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What's happening in PK3?

By Ms. Schooler

How are you feeling today? Happy? Sad? Excited? Scared? Were just a few of the questions that greeted our littlest tigers during their first Morning Meeting. With brave smiles and a quite few tears we sat down to begin our journey together as a new school family. Since that first day, PK3 has been busy learning about ourselves, our friends, our school, and our emotions in our first study called Beginning the Year. We have quickly learned that we have much more in common than not and are super excited to experience all that our school year will bring.

Working together to build a castle



Experimenting with color mixing.



A reminder about attendance

All scholars must arrive to school between **8:30-8:45am**. Any scholar arriving to school after 8:45 will be required to sign in and receive a tardy slip before reporting to class. We look forward to greeting scholars at 8:30 every morning! Additionally, we are only able to excuse absences for illness, doctor's appointments and for bereavement. On-time, consistent daily attendance is critical to ensuring our scholars meet their academic and social emotional goals! As families, we appreciate your support and partnership with ensuring we meet our **96% attendance goal** this year!

What is Conscious Discipline?

We are excited to start our journey with Conscious Discipline this year. Conscious Discipline is a social emotional learning curriculum that focuses on the emotional process for both adults and scholars. In a recent study of social emotional curriculums, conducted by Harvard, Conscious Discipline excelled in their analysis. Hopefully, your scholars are showing you breathing exercises and other skills they are learning to help them manage their composure and process their feelings. Visit www.consciousdiscipline.com to learn more about the program!

