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NMH SUMMER SESSION

**2010**  
**Middle School Program**  
**BEGINNING SPANISH**

This course was designed for students seeking an early start on the Spanish language before taking a full-year class. The course was conducted mainly in Spanish to assimilate a Spanish-speaking environment. The students were introduced to the four skill areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

During the five weeks of the course, the students learned the basics of the Spanish language. Material included the alphabet, pronunciation of vowels and consonants, definite and indefinite articles, pronouns, plural and singular nouns, days, months, seasons, ordinal and cardinal numbers 0 to 100, the verb *gustar*, greetings, adjectives, noun-adjective agreement, and the present tense conjugations of regular *-ar* and *-er* and *-ir* verbs, irregular verbs, stem-changing verbs, and reflexive pronouns and verbs. Themes included classroom items, school subjects, daily activities, family members, foods, likes and dislikes, greetings and farewells, and telling time.

The students engaged in meaningful and interactive activities in class to challenge them to communicate only in Spanish with one another and with the instructor. Course material included the book *Sabías que...?* Homework entailed the development of writing skills in the language, along with work on oral reinforcement of class material.

Cultural acquisition was essential to learning Spanish in this course. The students became familiar with Hispanic countries and cultures, including various commentaries on the wide variety of accents throughout Latin America and Spain. In the final two weeks, they made in-depth presentations about regional and cultural diversity in the Iberian peninsula, focusing on differences in history, language, food, and customs.

Methods of evaluation were an emphasis on oral skills, periodic quizzes, tests, projects, oral presentations, and a final evaluation. Daily preparation and participation were important parts of the class.

The class met for 1 hour and 15 minutes, six days a week, for the five-week session.

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Master Teacher: Marc Montini  
Trinity College