**Great Neck North Middle School**

**77 Polo Road**

**Great Neck, New York 11023**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending Open House. I always enjoy the opportunity to meet my students’ parents and share my goals and philosophy of education. I hope you find the evening enlightening. I am only sorry that I have so little time to speak with you. That said, I’d like to reiterate here some of what I hope to cover in our brief time together.

I consider it a great privilege to be entrusted with your children. I want each and every one of them to enjoy a class that is rigorous yet relaxed, where we all share the experience of language together. My goal is for each child to reach his or her potential. Grades are not as important (to me) as a child trying his/her absolute hardest and showing me what he/she is capable of. As I’ve told them, for me the grade is not what makes the student – it’s the effort, dedication and respect given to the curriculum, the class and the teacher.

The Language Department’s curriculum is based on the textbook series called *Realidades* yet almost 100% of the work will be teacher-generated by me. My website;[**http://bardash.weebly.com/**](http://bardash.weebly.com/)contains a link to *Realidades* supplemental activities, the songs we’ll sing in class, puzzles, vocabulary review, as well as my grammar lessons, PowerPoints and exercises which I encourage all students to use.

I give extensive class notes and handouts (in the form of packets to keep students better organized) and I take a great deal of effort to explain myself and answer questions in class. It is important that each child focuses during lessons and asks for clarifications at the time he/she may begin to get lost. The study of a foreign language needs a strong foundation and I will do everything possible to ensure that your child receives that foundation.

Students need to be responsible as well. **They need to study nightly** as learning a language requires time and a great deal of memorization and they need complete all homework assignments to the best of their ability. Homework counts as one quiz (approximately 10% of the quarter grade). Each quarter every student begins with 100% homework average. This is a very easy way to maintain or pull up an average, but likewise, if a student misses too many assignments, it could hurt the quarter grade. Five points are deducted for each missing or incomplete assignments and *these points cannot be made up.*

Throughout the year I will be giving helpful hints on test taking skills and ways to study. Neither tests nor homework will ever be given as a punishment. Learning is for learning’s sake, even for enjoyment, and I don’t want to take that away from the students by setting a negative tone. There will be numerous quizzes that should enable students to boost their grades, but I will never give a pop quiz as I feel that puts students at a disadvantage. Again, I give them every chance to excel.

This year our testing day (for a full period test) is FRIDAY. Any other type of assessment may be given on any other day but will be announced in advance. Foreign language extra help day is Thursday after school but I will be available daily if students let me know they will be coming. I encourage students to attend, even if briefly, to clarify, to ask questions and to make sure they thoroughly understand what we are doing in class and what is expected for homework. Students need to learn to advocate for themselves. Middle School is a great time for them to learn how to become independent and to become problem solvers for themselves!

As for what you can do to help; please check to make sure that your child putting in quality study time every night at home, and that assignments are completed. I require a binder (for Spanish ONLY, not shared with other subjects) to contain our packets and inside the binder a few sheets of loose-leaf paper for note taking and making corrections to homework. Folders DO NOT WORK! I also require a pencil case with pens, pencils, colored pencils and a sharpener.

Feel free to contact me at any time should you have questions regarding your child’s progress in my class. I can always be reached via e-mail at: [kbardash@greatneck.k12.ny.us](mailto:kbardash@greatneck.k12.ny.us). I check my mail throughout the day and will reply as quickly as possible. Please check your email throughout the year in the event that I send curricular updates and informative letters to keep you in the loop. Also, I will have my gradebook “live” throughout the year so check that as well to see how your child is doing in case he/she is not forthcoming with the grades.

Below you will find a copy of the contract handed out on the first day of school and that your child (and you) reviewed and signed. Attendance and positive participation in class are vital to success. Please go over the contract again with your child and throughout the year ask how he/she is doing and contributing to the educational environment of our class. Respect for themselves, their classmates, the school, the teacher and education are extremely important.

I thank you in anticipation for your continued support in facilitating your child’s success in Spanish. I appreciate your taking the time to come to open house.

Karen Bardash

1. I understand that I need to be in class (physically and mentally/emotionally) in order to succeed and learn.
2. I understand that the grades I receive are the grades I earn. I will study, prepare homework, and work up to my potential so that I may achieve success. I will take responsibility for my work both good and bad.
3. I understand that Homework must be COMPLETE in order to receive credit. There is no partial credit and there will be no homework make-ups except in the case of legal absences. Nightly study is a MUST!

The ability to get 100% HW grade (which counts as a quiz) rests with me!

1. I will come to class ON TIME, prepared to work, to cooperate and to contribute positively with a good attitude.
2. I will arrive with ALL required supplies (see below) and my homework when assigned.
3. I will keep a neat/organized NOTEBOOK (no folders, no sharing with other subjects) to help me keep track of my work and to be able to participate in class.
4. I will not disturb/distract the class or Ms. Bardash as we are all here for the purpose of learning.
5. If I have a problem that may affect my ability to work, I will inform Ms. B so that we may deal with it together.
6. I understand that if I cheat on any assignment or evaluation, I will automatically receive a 0 for the grade.
7. I will respect my classmates, my teacher, my education and myself. **I will do my absolute best this year**.

**\*REQUIRED SUPPLIES – must be purchased and in class by Monday**

* 1” or 2” 3-ring binder labeled with your name (I don’t care what color. May NOT be shared with any other subject)
* Loose-leaf paper (about 20 sheets)
* PENCIL CASE with
  + Pencils
  + Pens
  + **Colored pencils**
  + Pencil sharpener

**The above must be with you every day when you arrive to class. Once you arrive you may NOT go to your locker to get them. You will learn responsibility and preparedness this way.**

We will not be using iPads in class. iPads must be placed on the windowsill at the start of the period.