**August letter for Middle School families**

**Dear Middle School families,**

**Introduction**

My name is Tisha Ortega and I will be teaching one of the 7th grade Spanish classes this year in addition to the Spanish classes I teach at the high school. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been teaching for over twenty years. I have taught middle school, high school, and university level Spanish. Before moving to Illinois I lived in Indiana and I taught for five years for Indianapolis Public Schools and five years for the Brownsburg School District. Since moving to Illinois I have received my Master’s degree from Illinois State University in English Studies with an emphasis on teaching writing to middle school and high school students. I am excited to be teaching middle school Spanish again and I am looking forward to a great year with the 7th graders!

**August material**

During the month of August we will spend some time reviewing the material from 6th grade. I understand that the students learned a lot of Spanish last year, but students generally benefit with a quick review. We will start with the Quick Start vocabulary which can be found on this website and has been shared with them on googledocs. We will then move on to the material in the En Español 1 textbook in the preliminary chapter. That material can also be found on this website and will be shared with them on googledocs. Students can also access this information on the En Español website classzone.com.

**Family activity**

Something that might be new for the 7th graders this year will be the family activity. I will send a family activity home about once a month for the students to complete with a member of his or her family. I would prefer that the student complete the activity with a parent/guardian but a student could also do the activity with a brother or sister or another family member. The family activity will be a short assignment (it will take less than five minutes) where the student will be responsible for teaching some Spanish to his or her family member. I have found that in the past my students’ families really like doing this activity because it helps the family have an idea of what Spanish the student is covering in class. Also, teaching others helps the student gain a deeper knowledge of the subject matter.

İViva español!