

MI CLASE ES TU CLASE

Lower School Spanish Newsletter

The classes:

I teach a LOT of classes in the Lower School, and I am not very good at keeping numbers straight, SO I gave each class a fun Disney character name this year. They are listed below:

Pre-KA- Francis	Pre-KB-Ray
KA- Heimlich	KB- Berlioz
1A- Pascal	1B-Archimedes
2A- Meeko	2B- Figment
3A- Rajah	3B-Scuttle
4A- Bageera	4B-Akela
5A- March Hare	5B Mad Hatter

La Maestra Loca

The crazy teacher. It was a nickname that was created for me in one of the classes last week. I am absolutely embracing it. So who am I?

I grew up in a small mountain town called Leadville, in Colorado. I am accustomed to altitudes of at least 10,000 feet, and ten months of snow is quite normal. Needless to say, I have been melting since I moved here.

I have a Master's Degree from the University of Denver in Education and my Bachelor's is in Spanish and Criminology.

I've taught for 5 years, and last year I taught English in China.

I am very excited to join the St. Martin's community this year!



Teaching with TCI

TCI- Teaching with Comprehensible Input is the teaching methodology and approach that I use in my classroom. I want my students to ACQUIRE the Spanish language rather than learn about it. There are many branches under the TCI umbrella including, TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), Circling, PQA (Personalized Questions and answers), movie talk, and so much more. The most important thing that you should know about how my



classroom works is that I am speaking in SPANISH 90% of the time. I am sheltering my language and limiting it to the Spanish I know that the students know and throughout the year this vocabulary will grow and develop and they will acquire the language naturally rather than memorize it and study its grammar.



What do we do!?

We use Spanish. We make up stories, we act out scenes. We write stories together. We watch silent movies and talk about them in Spanish. We listen to music, and find missing lyrics and learn their meanings. We talk about funny photos and comics. We learn about culture and geography, using the Spanish we know. We acquire grammar naturally and with little pain, just like we learned our first language at home! WE DO EVERYTHING IN SPANISH, because you can't learn Spanish by speaking about it in English.

What we DON'T do:

We don't spend the majority of time talking about grammar, but we learn it by using it. We don't conjugate verbs, but we use verbs in present and past tenses. We don't use English, because talking about Spanish in English does not help students acquire language.

Contact me!

Please feel free to get in touch with me about any questions you have about the methodology or about your student in class. I look forward to getting to know all of you this year and I am so privileged to be working with all of your children! If you have instagram you can follow me at: [lamaestraloca](https://www.instagram.com/lamaestraloca) where I will be posting pictures of our class stories and activities. My email is annabelle.allen@stmsaints.com



La clase de Mad Hatter

Each newsletter I will choose one class to "feature"

I chose the Mad Hatter class this month because I have spent the most time with these kiddos. I am also one of the 5th grade homeroom teachers this year. 5B is my class and in the Spanish room they are known as the Mad Hatter class.

Mad Hatter sets a high bar for acting on our storytelling days! It is a class full of energy and dramatic, BIG personalities. The days we do TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) I have students get up and act out a story as I tell it. (I speak in Spanish the entire story) I am used to being in classrooms where I have a small pool of kids who want to participate in acting. EVERYONE wants to act at St. Martin's and this class is full of very talented actors!

Our focus for the first few weeks is building a strong base of vocabulary that we can build on. Our stories right now are very simple because of that ,but the kids still LOVE them. Have them recap our stories in English!

