***FLEX- Foreign Language Exploratory***

Urbana Middle School

**Miss Babb**

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 [UMS 2017-18 Student Handbook](https://education.fcps.org/ums/sites/ums/files/UMS%20Student%20Handbook%202017-18.pdf)

Dear Students:

Bonjour! Salve! ¡Hola! Marhaba! Hallo! It is an honor to teach each of you this school year. I am passionate about learning new languages and cultures. I sincerely hope that my enthusiasm is contagious! Speaking a second or third language other than English will give you a competitive edge in the world’s market. I look forward to getting to know you this year. Allons-y! ¡Vamonos! Yalla!

**Course Description:**

World Languages Exploratory is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills that will make them a successful world languages learner. Students will learn to communicate in each language on a very minimal level, learn important cultural information about the people who speak/spoke the language, and discuss how their own language developed and how the various world languages studied have influenced English.

**Units of Study:**

Semester 1: ASL, Latin, French

Semester 2: Arabic, German, Spanish

\*The order of the languages taught **may** be subject to change due to teacher discretion.

**Goals:**

* Develop skills in the mastery of a new language.
* Communicate in the target language through a variety of mediums.
* Identify countries where French, Arabic, German, and Spanish are spoken and where Latin was spoken.
* Begin to develop an understanding and appreciation for different cultures.

**Required Materials for Instruction:**

* Notebook paper (either in a spiral or in a binder)
* Folder (**only** needed if you will not be using a binder)
* Pencil or Pen (blue or black ink only please for all assignments, tests, and quizzes)
* Chromebook
* Art supplies (scissors, glue, coloring utensils, etc.) to be used on an occasional basis
	+ the need for these materials will be announced in advance- there is no need to bring them to class daily

**Come to class on time and be prepared to work with the aforementioned materials and your planner/agenda.**

**Grading Policy:**

**Note regarding HAC (Home Access Center):**

*Urbana Middle encourages parents to regularly check grades on HAC. The*

*following list of codes is provided to help parents better understand the HAC grading program.*

* *An “E” is issued to excuse work. (This neither hurts nor helps a student’s grade.)*
* *A “Z” is used by teachers to let parents know that an assignment has never been turned in. (The “Z” counts as a zero in the student’s grade in order to give an accurate reflection of what the grade will be if the assignment is never turned in.)*
* *An actual “0” in a grade book signifies that a student earned a zero on the assignment.*
* *A .1 included with a grade indicates that the assignment was turned in late and that the grade was reduced because of the lateness.*
* *Grades will be entered into HAC weekly.*

**Students will be graded on the following criteria:**

● Summative assessments: 50% ( summative assessments include unit tests, projects,

 benchmark assessments, etc.)

● Assessments: 40% (assessments include quizzes and other forms of weekly

 assessments)

● Homework: 10%

**School Wide Late work Policy:**

 Students are expected to meet project and homework deadlines. Any work turned in late will be reduced by no more than one letter grade per day (not to exceed 50% of the grade earned).

*Please note that “Late” refers to anything turned in after assignments are collected at the beginning of the class period on the day in which it is due.*

**Homework:**

Homework assignments will be worth 10 points unless otherwise noted. Credit will be given for every assignment based on whether or not it was **honestly** attempted and **completed,** not according to the accuracy of the response. Part of the learning process is to try to understand what you got wrong and then to **correct** those answers. Because of this, full credit will be given only if the **ENTIRE** assignment has been completed, otherwise, only half credit will be given. Homework will be assigned and posted daily in the classroom in a designated area. Students are expected to record all assigned work in their agendas. Homework will also be communicated to parents and students via Remind (text or email).

* **The only successful way to learn a new language is to practice it as much as possible. In addition to written homework assignments, you should also spend 10-15 minutes reviewing what was done in class that day or your vocabulary for the chapter. Be bold at home and say the words aloud. The more you say them at home, the more you will be confident in speaking the language in the classroom setting.**

**Google Classroom Code for FLEX:**

9r0ek7w

**Remind sign-up directions:**

Text or email @flexbabb to 81010

**Language Performance Tasks:**

Every student is expected to participate in class daily. Students will also be expected to use the new language in the classroom. Do not be concerned about making mistakes. Everyone will! This is part of the process of learning the language. Even if you don’t raise your hand, you may be called upon. Students should be diligent and focused on any and all assignments given to them.

**Quizzes:**

Students must study daily to effectively acquire a new language. In order to encourage students to study, frequent quizzes will be given. Quizzes will mostly be announced; however, unannounced quizzes may be given if I believe students are not coming to class prepared to learn. **Any use of translation programs or translation websites will be considered cheating and will not be graded. Instead students will be asked to redo the assignment.**

**Projects:**

Projects may be assigned on various topics throughout the year. Students will have some class time to complete the projects and will be expected to use their time wisely.

**Absences/Make Up Work Policy:**

It is the student’s responsibility to make up missed assignments, quizzes, and/or tests. Students may make-up work missed during excused absences for full credit. Work will be requested within two (2) days of the return to school. Unexcused absences may cause the student to be denied credit for make-up work. The work may be done for the purpose of teacher review, but teachers are not required to give credit. Please give teachers the courtesy of 24 hour notice for homework requests. Such requests should not be made for absences of less than three (3) days.You are responsible for making the arrangements. All assignments will also be posted using ***Remind.*** If you are absent on the day an assignment is due or an assessment is given, you will be expected to turn in the assignment and to take the quiz or test the day you return to class.

**Classroom Conduct for your Academic Success:**

#1 **Respect Yourself, Mlle. Babb, your Classmates, and the Classroom Environment**

* “Put Downs” will not be tolerated!
* Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

#2 **Be Prepared for Class Everyday**

* Bring all necessary supplies *such as* your pencil, pen, notebook with paper, chromebook, and folder daily.
* Sharpen your pencil **prior to** the start of class.

#3 **Be seated & Ready to Start when the Bell Rings. The teacher dismisses, not the bell.**

#4 **Raise your Hand and WAIT to be called upon Before you speak.**

#5 **Speak the Target Language even if you are unsure.**

**Electronic Devices:**

* The use of cellphones in class is STRICTLY prohibited. They must be powered off and out of sight for the duration of class. Any technology-related work will be done on chromebooks.
* Chromebooks must be charged and ready for class each day.
* For note-taking purposes, students may choose to handwrite their notes OR type up notes on their chromebooks (providing it does not hold them back/slow them down). The right to take notes on the chromebook may be revoked on an individual basis if the student is abusing the privilege.

**Bathroom passes:**

Students will be issued 3 bathroom passes at the beginning of each quarter. They may be used at any time (within reason) to go to the bathroom, get a drink, or go to a locker. If, at the end of the quarter, students have any remaining passes, each is worth **1 bonus point**. Physical passes MUST be turned in on the last day of the quarter in order to receive the points. Physical passes must also be presented at the time of exiting the classroom. (No pass, no leaving.) I keep track of when each student leaves, so the giving, borrowing, or duplication of passes is prohibited. In the case of a student needing to go to Guidance, the Main Office, or the Nurse’s office, a pass will not be collected. Please exercise good judgment in the use of bathroom passes.

**UMS’ “Soaring to Success”~ School-Wide Approach to Discipline:**

Urbana Middle School follows the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) program, which is a school-wide approach to discipline.  Our goal is to change behaviors that are disruptive to the learning environment.  In accordance with the PBIS program, students will be rewarded with “wings” for positive behavior and there will be consequences for failure to follow behavior guidelines and expectations.  **For the 2017-2018 school year consequences are accumulated PER STUDENT and not within each classroom.**  Therefore, you may hear from different teachers regarding your child’s progression through the steps.  The progression is as follows:

1. Verbal Warning
2. First Classroom Reflection/Parent Contact
3. Second Classroom Reflection/Parent Contact
4. Lunch Detention/Parent Contact
5. After School Detention/Parent Contact
6. Referral to the Office/Parent Contact

**Tutoring:**

I will be available to tutor students during ELT (Extended Learning Time). If you would like to be tutored during ELT please let me know one day in advance so that you may be added to the tutoring list.

**Enrichment:**

Students are highly encouraged to create accounts with Duolingo and/or Mondly for enrichment activities. These websites/apps provide fun activities for students to practice their language skills. Students are permitted to use Duolingo and/or Mondly in class or ELT if they finish other assigned activities early.