

September 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

¡¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! It is hard to believe that summer is gone and we are beginning a new school year. This certainly has been a different summer for all of us! I hope that you and your child had time to rest, rejuvenate and reconnect during the summer months. I am very excited to meet you and your child and to begin what I know will be a productive and fun-filled year in Spanish. The start of a new school year (especially this one!) can be exciting, exhilarating, exhausting, and overwhelming. Rest assured that we will all quickly settle into a new routine and life will get back to our "new normal."

By the time you receive this letter, I will already have met your child and shared a little bit about myself. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Deirdre Huff and my students call me "Señora". I am happy to be starting my 32nd year of teaching Spanish here at Diamond Middle School. Before teaching in Lexington, I taught high school Spanish in Bedford, MA. I am the proud (and very busy!) mother of 4 children; Curran (28), Emma (26), Aidan (22), and Lily (18). Our youngest child is off to college this year. I'm not sure that I'm ready to be an empty nester!:) My husband is a math teacher at Lawrence Academy who keeps busy by teaching, tutoring math and tending to his ever-growing Bonsai collection. We are lucky enough to live in the beautiful, bucolic town of Groton MA with our 3 cats and 6 chickens.

For me, building meaningful, personal relationships with my students and their families is the cornerstone of good teaching. Creating a learning environment in the classroom where students feel valued, respected, and heard is essential. Creating a classroom climate that encourages risk-taking, collaboration and respect continues to be a top priority for me as we begin a new school year. This year will be different for all of us. We will learn together in new and exciting ways. I look forward to communicating and collaborating with you to support and encourage your child in their study of Spanish this year.

As you know, middle school is an exciting time in a child's life. It is a time of growth and changes both physically, emotionally, and cognitively. It is extremely rewarding and sometimes challenging to work with middle school students but rest assured it is NEVER boring! ;)

Middle School is also an optimal time to learn a second or even third language. I look forward to sharing my passion for teaching and learning Spanish with your child and to share my love of the Spanish language and the many cultures that make up the Spanish-speaking world.

If you are a Spanish speaker or have any personal (family, travel) or professional experiences with the Spanish- speaking world, we would love to have you join us in class (virtually) to share with us!

I encourage you to contact me at any time regarding your child's progress in Spanish. I can be reached by phone at 781-861-2460 or by email at [dhuff@lexingtonma.org](mailto:dhuff@lexingtonma.org). Be sure to check out my [Teacher Web page](#) and your child's Google Classroom for additional resources, helpful links, daily homework assignments, and more.

I look forward to getting to know both you and your child this year.

Warm Regards,  
Señora Deirdre Huff