



APPLICATION for ADMISSION to the INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY of WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

"People do not learn languages and then use them, but learn languages by using them"

Program Description

The International Spanish Academy (ISA) at Walton High School is a rigorous educational program in Spanish and English offered through the collaboration of Walton High School with the Ministry of Education of Spain. The ISA at Walton is for students who are learning Spanish as a Foreign Language. Therefore, native and heritage speakers wishing to study Spanish at Walton will be placed in non-ISA courses such as Honors Spanish IV, V, AP Spanish Language, and AP Spanish Literature. These students may instead prefer to study French, Chinese or Latin as a Foreign Language.

Students who wish to apply to the ISA must be recommended for 9th grade Honors Literature and AP Human Geography. Students accepted to the ISA will take 4 years of Spanish at Walton and 4 Honors & AP content area courses that include a delivery component in Spanish. Approximately 30% of an ISA student's overall coursework at Walton will be conducted in Spanish. For full participation in the ISA, the ISA graduates will earn a diploma from Walton and from the Ministry of Education of Spain. In collaboration with Spain's Ministry of Education, the International Spanish Academy will:

- educate students in the values of multicultural education to foster international communication and respect among different cultures;
- teach students to express themselves and effectively communicate in English and Spanish in their personal relationships and in an academic setting;
- facilitate and promote the access of students to prestigious centers of higher education throughout the U.S., Spain/Europe and Latin America.

Students are admitted into the ISA in their freshman year. Acceptance of admission into Walton's International Spanish Academy implies that a student will remain an Academy student throughout their high school career in order to earn both diplomas. Students will take five AP exams within the ISA curriculum. All freshmen ISA students will also take the AP Human Geography Exam as a prerequisite to the program.

Approximately 30% of an ISA student's overall coursework at Walton will be conducted in Spanish. The following informational table outlines projected ISA courses as well as electives. *This table serves as a guide to inform students and parents of the general course direction to achieve the dual diplomas, and is subject to change in order to accommodate the needs of the school, personnel, and/or of individual students.*

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
ISA Spanish II-Culture, Comparisons & Communication	ISA Spanish III Advanced - The Humanities: Art & History	ISA AP Spanish Language & Culture	ISA AP Spanish Literature & Culture
ISA Honors 9th Grade Literature	ISA Honors Economics & ISA AP US Government & Politics (Semester Courses)	ISA AP US History	ISA AP English Literature & Composition

Admission Requirements

- Applicants of the graduating class of 2023 must reside within the Walton High School attendance zone **or** they must reside in Cobb County and have attended an ISA for the last consecutive two years. **Students who are accepted to the ISA but live outside the Walton attendance zone will return to their home schools if they exit the ISA program.**
- The Admissions committee will consider the candidates based on: information in application package, strong Middle School grades, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, Spanish grades in Middle School, Spanish expression in application essay.

Application Process

- 1) Register for Spanish II at Walton High School for 2019-2020. (Must have credit for Spanish I)
- 2) Be **recommended** for and register for Honors Ninth Grade Literature & AP Human Geography at Walton for 2019-2020.
- 3) Teacher Recommendations:
 - a. **Print three copies** of the teacher recommendation form and write your name at the top of the page.
 - b. Ask your Spanish teacher, Language Arts teacher, and your Social Studies teacher to complete the form and send a hard copy directly to the address below.
 - c. Provide your teacher with a stamped envelope, addressed as follows:

Suzanne Schott, Director
International Spanish Academy
Walton High School
1590 Bill Murdock Road
Marietta, GA 30062
- 4) Include copies of your 8th grade report cards.
- 5) Include copies of any standardized testing done in 6, 7, or 8th grade. Please do not ask the middle school counselor for this information. If you do not have your records, email Mrs. Schott and she will try to access the information.
- 6) Complete the application and the applicant and a parent/guardian must sign & date the **Declarations** page.
- 7) Submit application packet **to be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 15, 2019 to:**

Suzanne Schott, Director
International Spanish Academy
Walton High School
1590 Bill Murdock Rd.
Marietta, Georgia 30062

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the ISA right for me?

Only you will be able to answer this question. Read the information on the ISA page at www.waltonhigh.org. The ISA page can be found under Academics. Read some of the newsletters to find out more about what goes on in the ISA at Walton. Discuss your interest with your family.

Will I have any flexibility in choosing my courses?

You will have a prescribed course of study in Spanish which will include four Spanish courses and five content area courses. The content area ISA courses are taught in English and Spanish. The delivery component in Spanish in the content area courses increases each year.

What if I am a member of the band or the orchestra?

We have many musicians in the ISA! You will have limited flexibility for extra electives as these music programs already occupy that time during your day. You might be eligible to add a tuition course (zero period) if you want to add a course to your schedule.

What if I don't think I can be successful in Honors or AP level courses, for example, in Spanish... then what?

Then you should probably not apply to the ISA. You still will be able to study four years of Spanish, but you will not be in the ISA. Take into consideration that added support will be provided by the ISA faculty to help you as you acquire added fluency and ability in the language. Challenge yourself! You are not alone.

Can I drop out of the Academy?

By recommendation of the ISA faculty and/or the student's Guidance Counselor, or in extreme cases in consultation with the parents and teachers, students may be released from the ISA program. Special sections of ISA classes are hand scheduled for students to obtain the best possible scenario for success. Teacher allotments do not allow for flexibility once courses are established. So please make your considerations carefully, and submit an application if you are genuinely serious about obtaining proficiency in Spanish by your graduation from high school.

If I don't apply now, can I apply in my sophomore or junior year?

No. Applications are taken for entering freshmen only.

What is in it for me?

- Rigorous, challenging work toward dual high school diplomas from the state of Georgia & the Ministry of Education of Spain
- The chance to *use* Spanish so that you are able to communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity
- Expanded opportunities for international studies at the college level in the USA and Europe
- A unique opportunity to draw attention to your high school transcript in competition for college admissions

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Personal Information

Applicant's Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	FTE or Social Security Number
Street Address			Date of Birth
City	State	Zip	Home Phone Number
Parent / Guardian Name			Parent / Guardian Cell Number
Student's e-mail			Parent / Guardian's e-mail

List all of your previous Spanish studies

Level of Spanish	School year taken	Name of Spanish Teacher	Name of School

List any travel experiences to a Spanish-speaking country

Traveled to:	Year:	Traveled with (group):	Purpose of trip:

List anyone outside of school with whom you regularly speak in Spanish and their relationship to you, or any activity you are involved in outside of school where you use Spanish regularly.

Person (indicate relationship) or Activity	How often do you use Spanish with this person or while you are involved in this activity per week?

List any academic achievements, honors, or awards you have received

Honor or Award	Year:	Honor or Award	Year:

List any community service that you have provided or are involved with currently

Community Service	Hours per week:	Community Service	Hours per week:

List any non-academic extra-curricular activities and organizations in which you have participated:

Activity or Organization:	Activity or Organization:

**Declarations of Understanding by Student Applicant to the International Spanish Academy
and the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Applicant:**

We, the undersigned recognize and agree to the following:

- that admission to the International Spanish Academy (ISA) requires a four-year commitment to the program and to the outlined course of study;
- that in order to receive dual diplomas at graduation from Walton High School and the Ministry of Education of Spain the student must successfully complete 4 years of Spanish at Walton in addition to 5 content area classes that include substantive delivery in Spanish, or additional Spanish electives as they become available;
- that specific content focus will include not only Spanish language and communication abilities, but also literature, art, economic, social, political and international relations in the contemporary world;
- that the language of content instruction, process, and product will be Spanish;
- that the course instruction will be differentiated in content, process and product to meet the learning needs of all ISA students;
- that admission to the ISA is the decision of the Admissions Committee of the International Spanish Academy and Administration of Walton High School;
- that admission is based on the information contained in this application package, the teacher recommendation(s), and permanent records of the student without regard to race, national origin, creed, or gender;
- that I am learning Spanish as a foreign language
- that the essays in my applications were written by me without assistance from anyone

As the student applicant, I further understand:

- that during my 4 years at Walton, I will earn at least 40 community service hours in which I use my knowledge of Spanish (serving the Hispanic community, internship at Wood Acres School Summer Camp, peer tutoring in Spanish, etc.). A letter or certificate verifying the hours must be submitted to Mrs. Schott. If you would also like the hours to count toward Walton honor cords for graduation, please follow the directions for volunteer hour submission. These directions are found on the Walton website under Students.

As the student applicant I declare that:

- I am excited and I am committed to working rigorously in all of my classes and to learn more about the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world;
- I will eagerly participate by using the Spanish language in my Spanish classes as well as my ISA content area courses;
- I have carefully read the attached information on the ISA and agree to enthusiastically collaborate with Walton High School and the Ministry of Education of Spain in fulfilling the objectives of the International Spanish Academy.

Signature of student

Date

Signature of parent

Date

Attendance Zone Verification and Understanding:

If I live in Cobb County but outside of the Walton Attendance zone, I have attached verification that I have attended an ISA for the last two years. My parents/guardians further understand that if I am accepted to the Walton ISA but am asked to or wish to leave the ISA program for any reason, I will return to my home school within the district.

Student: Last Name _____ First Name _____
 SS# or FTE# _____



**TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
 INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY
 WALTON HIGH SCHOOL**



The above named student is applying for admission to the International Spanish Academy at Walton High School to begin in August 2018. S/he will take 4 years of Spanish at Walton along with 5 additional content area courses that include a component of Spanish through direct instruction or content. This student is not a native or heritage speaker of Spanish. I understand that the ISA is for students who are learning Spanish as a foreign language.

Please respond to the following statements by indicating your rating of this student in the following categories, with (5) being that you strongly agree, and (1) being that you strongly disagree. If you have no basis for answering any one of the statements, please indicate by marking the N/A box.

The student:	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Sets high personal standards						
Responds well to challenges and rigorous assignments						
Is academically & intellectually curious						
Demonstrates highly developed language skills but is not a native/heritage speaker of Spanish						
Participates frequently in class discussion						
Completes work as assigned						
Is organized & detail-oriented						
Is excited about and <u>quick</u> to learn new and challenging material						
Responds appropriately to setbacks or constructive criticism						
Seeks help when needed						

Comments: Please add any comments that will give insight into this student's academic potential and/or social/cultural adaptability.

Please check that which best describes your recommendation:

___ Enthusiastically recommend ___ Recommend with reservation (please explain) ___ Do not recommend

Teacher's Name (Print)	Teacher's Signature	Date
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Subject & Year Taught (Specify A/C or not)	School	Recommending Teacher's e-mail
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Teachers, please send the form directly to Suzanne Schott at Walton High School by fax, email, school or US mail. Teacher recommendations must arrive by Friday, March 15, 2019. Thank you!