

# **The Spanish for Heritage Speakers Program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School El Programa de Español para Hispanohablantes en St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School**

The purpose of the Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS) Program is to provide the opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students with experience in Spanish at home or in their families to participate in an accelerated course of Spanish in accordance with the Diocesan Spanish Language Curriculum Objectives.

The SHS program is a two year program of study beginning in seventh grade for students who have a background level of Spanish due to their Hispanic Heritage and desire a more rigorous course of study that keeps them constantly challenged and interested. The demanding program of study requires a high level of academic performance, discipline, and appropriate maturity for each student participating. Consistent parental support is also required for the student's success.

Key elements of the SHS program include:

- An accelerated reading, writing, and grammar track in Spanish, enabling students to further their Spanish language skills.
- Rapid paced and rigorous classes, covering significantly more material than the standard class.
- Small class size (the class size is limited to 18 students)

## **Admission Qualifications**

Rising seventh and eighth grade students must:

- Demonstrate appropriate Spanish fluency through the Spanish STAR Reading test and a writing sample
- Receive positive recommendation from current Spanish teacher (if not a current student at Aquinas)

Once a student is in the SHS program, the appropriateness of the class will be reconsidered if the teacher and the administration feel that the student is not demonstrating the maturity or dedication that this course requires.

Applicants will be considered based on their Spanish reading level, writing sample, oral interview, application, and the space available in the class. For current Aquinas Students, the reading level test and the oral interview will take place during the school day.

**Application Deadline and Testing Dates for 2019-2020 School Year**

- **Reading Test and Writing Sample Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2019**
- **Application Due: Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

# Spanish for Heritage Speakers Program

at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School

Name of Student/Nombre de Estudiante: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade/Nivel actual: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian names/ Nombre(s) de los padres/apoderados:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current school (if not Aquinas)/Escuela actual (si no es Aquinas):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Application Checklist:

### 1. Teacher Recommendation/Recomendación de Profesor(a)

**(Only necessary if you are not currently a student at Aquinas)**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted a form to my child's current Spanish teacher. / He entregado el formulario de recomendación al profesor(a) actual de Español de mi hijo(a).

### 2. STAR Reading Test and Writing Sample

\_\_\_\_\_ My student will take this test at Aquinas on May 1, 2019 at 3pm./ Mi hijo(a) va a dar este examen en Aquinas el 1 de Mayo de 2019 a las 3 de la tarde.

### 3. Student and Parent Questionnaire

\_\_\_\_\_ My student and I have completed the parent and student questionnaires./ Mi estudiante y yo hemos completado los cuestionarios de apoderado(a) y de estudiante.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature/Firma de Padre(s) o Apoderado(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature/Firma de Estudiante:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the application, parent/guardian questionnaire, student questionnaire, and any other supporting documentation to the following address. / Por favor, entreguen la solicitud, el cuestionario de padres/apoderados, el cuestionario del estudiante, y cualquier otro documento necesario a la dirección siguiente.

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School  
ATTN: SHS Application  
13750 Marys Way  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22191

Application Deadline: May 1, 2019



## Parent Questionnaire/Cuestionario de Padres St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School SHS Program

Student Name/Nombre de Estudiante: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name/Nombre de Padre o Madre: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions in either English or Spanish.

Por favor responde a las preguntas siguientes en cualquier de los dos idiomas.

1. Why are you interested in having your student participate in the Spanish for Heritage Speakers program at Aquinas? ¿Por qué quiere usted que su estudiante participe en el programa de Español para Hispanohablantes en Aquinas?

2. Do you or any relatives speak Spanish with your child at home?  
¿Usted o algún otro pariente habla Español con su hijo(a) en casa?

3. Is there anything you would like us to know about your child as we consider your application?  
¿Hay algo más que usted quiere que sepamos sobre su hijo(a) mientras consideramos esta solicitud?



## Student Questionnaire/Cuestionario de Estudiante St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School SHS Program

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***Please print in your own handwriting. You may attach a separate sheet if needed. You may respond in either Spanish or English.***

*Por favor, escribe en tu propia letra. Puedes incluir otra hoja si es necesario. Puedes responder en inglés o en español.*

Name/Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade/Nivel actual: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are you interested in participating in the Spanish for Heritage Speakers Program at Aquinas?  
¿Por qué te interesa participar en el program de Español para hispanohablantes en Aquinas?

2. For how long have you spoken Spanish? In what places and with whom do you speak Spanish?  
¿Desde cuándo has hablado Español? ¿En cuáles lugares hablas Español? ¿Con quién hablas Español?

3. Do you like to read? What is your favorite book and why?  
¿Te gusta leer? ¿Cuál es tu libro favorito? ¿Por qué es tu favorito?

## Spanish for Heritage Speakers

### Student Recommendation Form, Grades 7-8

\_\_\_\_\_ is applying for admission to the Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS) program for grade \_\_\_\_\_. The administration would greatly appreciate your cooperation in giving as full an appraisal as possible of this student's performance. These comments are especially helpful in assessing an applicant's qualifications. Please complete and return the recommendation to the school office at your earliest convenience. All replies will be kept confidential.

Teacher Name:

School name:

School address :

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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*The following to be completed by the student's current Spanish teacher:*

*Please place an X on the scale for each characteristic of the student.*

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Always/Good</b>	<b>Never/Poor</b>
Attentiveness in class	_____	_____
Completes homework	_____	_____
Participates in class	_____	_____
Works independently	_____	_____
Reading aptitude in Spanish	_____	_____
Writing aptitude in Spanish	_____	_____
Academically motivated	_____	_____
Appropriate maturity for age	_____	_____
Appropriate academic discipline	_____	_____
Manages time well	_____	_____
Shows respect for teachers, parents, and others	_____	_____

Engages challenging or difficult situations even if success is not guaranteed

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Parental support

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*Has the student ever exhibited any type of behavior that would be detrimental to the class as a whole? (If **yes**, please explain)*

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*We are particularly interested in evidence about character, relative maturity, independence, his/her values, the things about which the student is enthusiastic, and any special talents he/she may possess. We would like to know both strong and weak points. If more space is needed, please use back of this form.*

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*Overall, do you recommend this student for the SHS program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School? Why or why not?*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please submit to:*

**St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School  
ATTN: SHS Recommendation  
13750 Mary's Way  
Woodbridge, VA 22191**

Thank You!