

September 3, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This school year, we will be using Google Voice in Spanish class for speaking practice and assessment. Using my Google account through the School District of New Berlin, I signed up for a phone number through Google Voice. Students are able to call that number and respond to a voicemail message that I previously recorded with a prompt that relates to our current unit of study. I can either listen to the message on my cell phone by calling my Google phone number or through my voicemail inbox in my Google account. I *am* able to see your student's phone number in my voicemail inbox, but that number will remain confidential.

I am using Google Voice in class to give your student an extra opportunity to not only listen to the target language, but also respond in Spanish with little prep time. This is a difficult task, especially as they must listen to a foreign language over the phone and are unable to see the person's lips moving. Therefore, this is a great practice to help the students improve their comprehension of the language and it is another unique way to incorporate the spoken language in my curriculum.

Students also are able to respond with a partner if their phone has speakerphone capabilities. This is an easy way for me to assess their interpersonal language skills without taking up excessive class time to do this type of assignment. I will assign one prompt every week or two for the students to complete individually as a homework assignment. On many unit assessments Google Voice will be used, so this way students will become comfortable with the process before the unit assessment.

I used Google Voice last year and it was very successful, so I am excited to continue to include it in my curriculum this year. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to contact me. My email is [nicole.thompson@nbexcellence.org](mailto:nicole.thompson@nbexcellence.org).

Sincerely,

Nicole Thompson  
Spanish Teacher

I have read the above letter and understand that my child will be using their cell phone to communicate with Señorita Thompson in her class. Therefore, by signing below I give permission for my child to use this piece of technology in his/her Spanish class.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Guardian Name (Print):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole C. Thompson  
New Berlin West Middle/High School