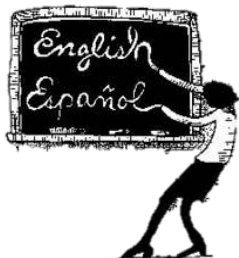


Yo soy Mrs. Rison (or Profesora Rison). ¡Mucho gusto! I have been teaching *Español* here since 2016 and took on Music as well in 2017. I was fortunate enough to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass twice every Sunday for six years—first with my family and again in the afternoon to play piano for the Spanish Masses here at St. Peter's. I “retired” this past summer to spend more time with my family at our home parish in Benedict on Sundays but I already miss the Spanish community and getting that extra dose of the Gospel each week.

I have a B.A. in Spanish Literature and a Business Administration minor from Chestnut Hill College, a small Catholic school just outside of Philadelphia. I have played piano for 25 years, and also play the flute, oboe, saxophone, euphonium, guitar (although barely), and any instruments I can get my hands on. (Mastering the violin is my most recent quest.) Some of my other hobbies include napping, singing, reading, painting, watching movies, playing games, and just relaxing with my *esposo*, our *hijos*, and our *perro*.



Pausing for a family photo in the Rainforest Exhibit at the National Aquarium in Baltimore



ESPAÑOL Y MÚSICA

¡Bienvenidos a las clases de español y música! Welcome to my Spanish and Music classes! I hope everyone had a restful summer vacation.

I am excited to meet our new students at St. Peter's School, and get reacquainted with familiar faces as well. There will definitely be some changes to adjust to this year, but I know that we will make everything work. Due to some shifts in the Middle School schedule and conflicts with my elementary classes, I no longer have a Music or Spanish Elective. However, I do happen to have a free period that coincides with the students' Study Hall which I hope to utilize for the occasional Choir practice, especially around special events or Holy Days of Obligation. Another change in my classroom is the beautiful, new tile flooring! It is a great improvement compared to the old carpeted floors that were previously found in my room and throughout the school. The hallways look so much brighter than before.

For Middle School Spanish classes: We will start off the year reviewing topics like verb conjugations, talking about where and when we go to different places, and general activities we like to do (*cantar, bailar, usar la computadora*, etc). Soon we'll try to add even more specific details like *deportes*, hobbies, schedules, and all about our family members. We will also continue reciting the *Padre Nuestro, Ave María, El Gloria*, and *La Oración de Fátima*. By the end of eighth grade, students should be able to say the whole Rosary in Spanish, with some help on the *Credo de los Apóstoles*.

Elementary classes will review basic conversational greetings, introducing ourselves to each other, and of course start every class with the *Señal de la Cruz* in Spanish and the *Padre Nuestro* prayer (either in English or Spanish depending on the class). Hopefully students remember some words that we have learned in Spanish for dates, colors, animals, and classroom objects. We're going to practice putting what we know together to try and talk about ourselves and some of our favorite things.

Although I don't see Pre-K, Kindergarten, or Grade 1 an extra time each week for Spanish class, I try to expose them to the language through fun songs when I see them in Music class. Don't be surprised if your child sometimes comes home singing something that may sound like gibberish, but is actually their version of Spanish song lyrics. I'm eager to hear how many students will remember how to sing the Spanish alphabet, "*La araña pequeñita*" and "*Hola a todos*" after the summer vacation.

Other topics we'll be covering in Music classes:

- Tempo and steady beats
- Instrument sounds and families
- Reading basic rhythm notations
- Reading notes on the staff
- Playing recorders
- Solfège
- Christmas Program songs!

Keep reading below for definitions of the Spanish words used throughout this page. Could you figure any of them out using context clues or deductive reasoning? Also below, language-learning website suggestions for students. Scroll down!

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTICING SPANISH:

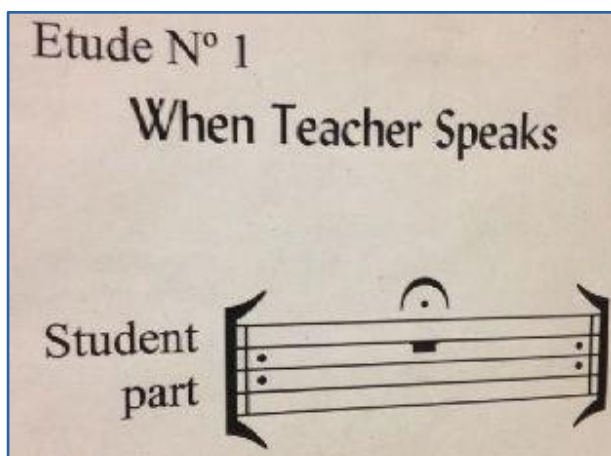
Practice Spanish (or several other language options) using game-like lessons and quizzes on [Duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com). Another great Duolingo option I really enjoy is practicing reading and listening comprehension using [Duolingo Stories](https://www.duolingo.com/stories). This feature tells interesting stories utilizing voice actors and narrators in the target language, at the user's individual pace. There are a couple pauses throughout the telling of each story to check your understanding and quiz yourself on the material you're picking up.

Practice Spanish AND help end world hunger on [Freerice.com](https://www.freerice.com). For each answer you get right, 10 grains of rice are donated to the United Nations World Food Program. Click on "**SUBJECTS**", look under "**LANGUAGE LEARNING**", and choose Spanish to practice translating vocabulary words. (A lot of words in the early levels are cognates, meaning they're very similar in English and easy to guess even if you're still a beginner.)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you on the enrichment of your child's Spanish and Musical skills!

¡Que Dios te bendiga!

~Profesora Rison



A little musician humor...

Vocabulario en español

Yo soy - I am

Mucho gusto - Nice to meet you

Familia - Family

Esposo - Spouse

Hijos - Sons

Perro - Dog

Bienvenidos - Welcome

A las clases - to the classes

de Español - of Spanish

y música - and music

Cantar - to sing

Bailar - to dance

Usar la computadora -
to use the computer

Deportes - Sports

Padre Nuestro - Our Father

Ave María - Hail Mary

El Gloria - The Glory Be

La Oración de Fátima -
The Fatima Prayer

El Credo de los Apóstoles -
The Apostles Creed

Señal de la Cruz -
Sign of the Cross

La araña pequeña -
The itty bitsy spider

Hola a todos - Hello, everyone

Que Dios te bendiga -
May God bless you