



Yo soy Mrs. Rison (or *Profesora Rison*). *Mucho gusto!* I've been part of the St. Peter's *familia* playing piano at masses since 2013, but I'm very happy to have joined the school family to teach *Español* in 2016 and Music in 2017. 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 20+ years, and also play the flute, oboe, saxophone, and the euphonium. In my free time I enjoy singing, reading, painting, watching movies, and spending time with my *esposo*, our *hijos*, Adam and Simon, and our *perro*, Slinkypup.



ESPAÑOL

¡Bienvenidos a las clases de español y música! Welcome back! 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. This year will be particularly interesting at the upper-elementary levels, because we are doubling the amount of Spanish classes taught each week! Grades 3, 4, and 5 will now have Spanish two times a week instead of one. I'm eager to see the positive effects this will have on students' ability to retain and recollect phrases and other information that we will work on in class. We will be reviewing basic conversational greetings and introducing ourselves to each other, and of course start every class with the Padre Nuestro prayer. Hopefully students remember some words 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.

The middle school grades are already hard at work trying to recall vocabulary words and rules from our last year together. Seventh and eighth grade students can provide sentences in Spanish describing general information about themselves, friends, family members, and classes. Soon we'll try to add even more specific details like *deportes*, hobbies, and schedules.

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS:

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).

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. 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.)

MÚSICA

Although I don't see Pre-K, Kindergarten, or Grade 1 for Spanish class, I try to expose them to the language through fun songs 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. Some of our favorites to sing together are "La araña pequeña" and "Hola a todos".

Other mid-elementary classes will be working on fundamental music theory like reading basic rhythm notation and even learning music notes on the staff. 3rd grade will soon start learning how to play the recorders, and hopefully build a solid foundation to help in the future if they decide to join Mr. Petrow's band in their 4th grade year.

All levels will also start preparations for our annual Christmas Program this fall. Who doesn't love singing Christmas carols and retelling the story of Jesus Christ's birth? Our brand new Music Elective will perform on the handbells for the Christmas Program, as well as learn new hymns for church, sing other fun songs, and review some general choral/music theory while we're at it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

¡Que Dios te bendiga!

Vocabulario en español

Yo soy – I am

Mucho gusto – Nice to meet you

Familia – Family

Esposo – Spouse

La clase de Español – Spanish class

Hijos – Sons

Perro – Dog

Bienvenidos – Welcome

Padre Nuestro – Our Father

Deportes – Sports

La araña pequeña – The itty bitsy spider

Hola a todos – Hello, everyone

Que Dios te bendiga – May God bless you

MÚSICA

We have had an awesome year in music class, specifically with regards to our choral achievements! During a field trip to historic St. Mary's City, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades made me proud with their beautiful a capella rendition of "Hail, Holy Queen" in the Brick chapel. The group received many compliments. We are also excited for an upcoming St. Peter's Spirit Night/Blue Ribbon celebration during which one of our 8th graders will sing the National Anthem at the start of a Blue Crabs baseball game! During the 7th inning stretch, some of our students will also be singing "America, the Beautiful" on the field. Go Storm!



Winners of my "Name that tune" board this quarter

In our younger grades, we have been learning all about rhythm and even reading music notation using beanbags. We looooooove holding out whole notes and practicing our ability to keep a steady beat by patting on our laps or passing claps around our circle of students.

We also listened to lots of music and practiced differentiating between presto (fast), moderato (medium), and lento (slow) tempos, or speeds. The students had a blast waving our parachute to match different tempos. Lento was (surprisingly) the favorite!

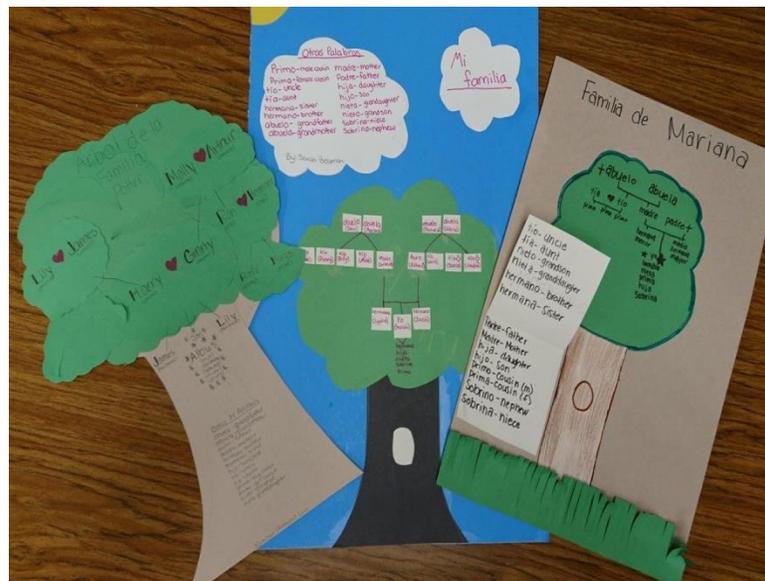


ESPAÑOL

Elementary grades have been practicing numbers in Spanish, and some classes are even doing addition and subtraction equations! Quince menos cinco son diez, pero quince más cinco son veinte. (Or, $15-5=10$ but $15+5=20$.) We are also enjoying practicing our numbers by sharing our ages and birthday months with our classmates in Spanish.

6th grade has mastered the "Padre Nuestro" or "Our Father" prayer and made some great calendars in Spanish which can be seen hanging outside of my classroom. Their calendars demonstrate their knowledge of days, months, seasons, and other vocabulary words related to their month. Each student also has their *cumpleaños* noted so we can remember to celebrate their special day!

7th grade is learning how to describe people in their familias y clases, and will soon do an "All About Me" project using everything they've learned. Some of their family tree projects were so creative and beautiful.



8th grade is excelling at describing things and people, and expressing plans/things they have to do using the different conjugations of "ir a" (to go to), "tener que" (to have to) and "necesitar" (to need). ¡Qué clase más inteligente! Tenemos que estudiar algo más difícil.

Hasta luego!