

*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” last 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*.

*\*\* (All Spanish words can be found in the “Vocabulario” box at the bottom of this webpage!)*



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



## ESPAÑOL Y MÚSICA

The year is flying by! We ended 2019 with our best Christmas Program yet (in my humble opinion) thanks to the efforts of many middle school actors to share the story of Christmas, and

of course our own Mrs. Beagley's amazing stage direction. The set, props, and costumes were majorly upgraded this year and it made the world of a difference, at least visually. Our goal next year is to improve our sound system as well. The elementary school classes stepped up to the plate, each singing two solo songs in addition to several Christmas carols with the middle school cast and entire student body from second through fifth grade. My video camera battery unfortunately was not charged enough to capture the whole show, but last year's Christmas Program can be seen on the school YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YB846n7Mnic>.

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Grade also did awesomely at their own mini-Christmas Program during the St. Peter's PTO Breakfast with Santa event, singing a couple Christmas songs to kick off all the activities that morning.

Now that the Christmas Season is over though, Music Classes will get back to learning and practicing basic music theory concepts like tempo and steady beats, instrument sounds and families, reading rhythms, reading notes on the staff, and Solfège in upper elementary classes. Third grade in particular is excited to practice their recorders and earn different colored “belts” whenever they learn a new song for our version of Recorder Karate.

Middle school Spanish classes have been hard at work with 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). We've also learned seasons and weather-related vocabulary, and how to talking about likes and dislikes. 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 school Spanish classes have reviewed basic conversational greetings, introducing ourselves to each other, and of course we start every class with the *Señal de la Cruz* in Spanish and a prayer (either in English or Spanish depending on the grade). We've talked about masculine, feminine, singular, and plural endings in Spanish and how to adjust to each one. Fourth grade is enjoying our latest unit on *animales* and adjectives to describe them (and adjusting adjective endings to be masculine/feminine/singular/plural as needed).

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. Some favorites of the students are “*La araña pequeña*” and “*Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies*”.

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

**WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTICING SPANISH:**

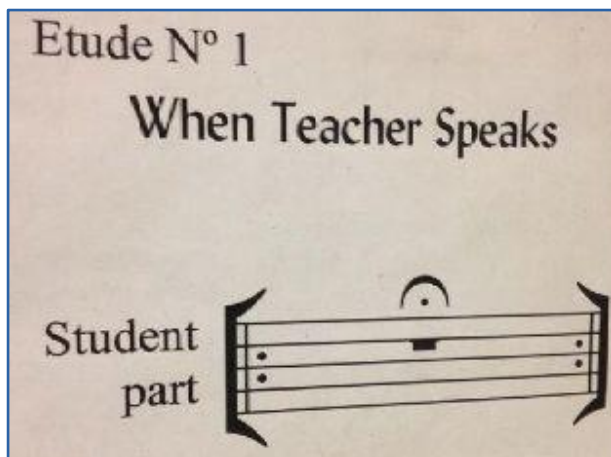
Practice Spanish (or several other language options) using game-like lessons and quizzes on [Duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com). Another great Duolingo option I really enjoy is practicing reading and listening comprehension using [Duolingo Stories](https://www.duolingo.com/stories). This feature 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...*



*Christmas Program cast and crew after the show*

## 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

Animales - Animals

La araña pequeña - The itty bitsy spider

Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies -  
Head, shoulders, knees, feet

Que Dios te bendiga - May God bless you