



¡Hola a todas las familias de Odyssey!

My name is Jessica Ruiz, and I am the 8th grade Spanish Teacher. Originally a Spokaneite, I went to college in Ohio, and then spent several years living in Chile (where I met my husband). After all that, I knew I would come back to Spokane to teach my passion, and am extremely excited to be a part of the team here at Libby.

This is the first year Libby has had Spanish, and in order to integrate it into our 8th graders' busy academic lives, we are exploring a "blended model." This means we meet in person three days a week and for the other two days the students study and complete activities and assessments through our virtual classroom on BlackBoard. In addition, this course is for high school credit, and all Spanish 1 students in the district are expected to cover the same content and will take the same final exams.

This is a really unique model for a language class, but I think it offers some distinct advantages. Such advantages include - flexibility for students, using less paper, having all virtual work and feedback in a centralized location, being able to devote more time to individual oral practice, using class time to focus on more communicative activities, and realistic practice for future career responsibilities.

While it has been a learning process for everyone, the students have done a great job of staying on top of the workload and being flexible with me as we work together to discover the best way to maximize our time and resources. Throughout all this, we try to learn through fun, sometimes goofy activities, and incorporate rich cultural experiences.

Any and all questions are welcome! My email is [jessicar@spokaneschools.org](mailto:jessicar@spokaneschools.org)

Atentamente,

Jessica Ruiz