

## Answers to FAQs about your teacher:

Name: Señora Swank

(Katherine O'Keeffe-Swank)

1. Teaching: this is my ninth year teaching—and my sixth year at WHS. Prior to WHS: CCCatholic H.S. and Lawrence Upper School; English reading tutor and Spanish tutor for many years.

2. How do you know Spanish?

More than 20 years speaking. I learned when I was 16, in the classroom and by living in Spain for 1 year as an exchange student. (You can do this, too, by the way. See this link for the Rotary Program <http://www.rotarydistrict6630.org/SitePage/youth-exchange> Student

applications are typically due the  
November prior of year to travel.)

3. Is learning a language hard?

Spanish is one of the easiest languages to learn because it is phonetic. To make it easier, listen to Spanish music, watch cartoons, movies and soaps in Spanish via Internet, Univision/Telemundo and read: see my practice site for useful links to help you

<http://senoraswank.weebly.com/>

Find young people who speak Spanish outside of school and practice. They will be encouraging if you're making an effort, and you will learn faster!

4. How do you make this class fun?

I require students to participate in

speaking activities, skits, games—which are more fun, the more students know/study their new vocabulary and grammar.

5. Why do you like Spanish?

Learning and sharing the Spanish language and the 22 some cultures are a passion of mine. Also, the language is “amable” amiable—or very friendly.

6. Why did you become a teacher?

I love the content, and enjoy seeing all of my students’ faces when they understand language and culture in-use.

7. Have you always been a teacher?

Former career: textbook publishing—project manager, proofreader and copy editor; agribusiness publishing as a

writer/editor at a company that required me to conduct business in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

8. Which of these did you like most?

Panama, for its diversity and beauty.

9. What's your Spanish accent?

Una mezcla lo cual es mayormente latinoamericano.

10. Favorite colors: rojo y negro

11. Favorite foods: gambas al pil-pil (sizzling garlic-pepper shrimp); papas fritas con huevos fritos (French fries dipped in fried eggs.)

12. Roots/education: I was born in Michigan, grew up in Akron suburb, graduate of Norton High School.

Graduate of Kent State and Notre Dame College with 3 BA degrees. Working on a Master Degree in Spanish linguistics.

13. What was college like? HARD WORK, but worth the investment.

14. Family: I am married and have one son, Nathan, almost 7 yrs old. We have been living in Mayfield Hts. for about 10 years.

15. If you weren't a Spanish teacher, what would you do?

Me gustaría ser una espía internacional para el CIA.

16. My goals: to get all of my students speaking Spanish; to incorporate more technology in the classroom; to continuously learn/use new techniques

and proven-best-practices with my students for second language acquisition.

17. Other interests/hobbies: spending time with my son, coaching soccer, crafts—painting; reading Spanish novels, watching foreign films to learn about other cultures; meeting people from different cultures than my own.
18. Fav. Movies: Back to the Future, La Misma Luna
19. Fav. Book: anything by Caitlin Moran, Isabel Allende; most historical fiction
20. Dislikes or intolerances: mala gente, cuando la gente esté antipática