

Mexico

Culturally responsive teaching is "using the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of reference, and performance styles of ethnically diverse students to make learning encounters more relevant to and effect for students" - Geneva Gay (2010)





Spanish is the official language of Mexico and is spoken by more than 95% of the population.

As many as 100 Native American languages are still spoken in Mexico, but no single alternative language prevails. Eighty percent of those Mexicans who speak an indigenous language also speak Spanish.

*Keep in mind, it is possible that a student arriving in your building from Mexico may speak one of the Native American Languages.

- The family is at the center of the social structure.
- The extended family is as important as the nuclear family. Mexicans consider it their duty and responsibility to help family members.
 - For example, they will help find employment or finance a house or other large purchase.
- Gifts are opened immediately when they are received.

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- In rural areas it is not always acceptable to directly look someone in the eyes out of respect but in the cities it is widely acceptable.
 - When children are in trouble they look down and if they look at the adult directly in the eyes it can be seen as disrespectful and a challenge.
 - When demonstrating the height of something, be aware that holding the palm face down is reserved for animals. For people, hold the palm sideways with the thumb on top.

Here are some phrases you may want to learn if you are looking for ways to further connect with your students or families from Mexico.

1. Hola (hello) and hasta luego (see you later) *Hola* is the standard greeting for "hello." **Hasta luego** is the more common way to say good-bye. But if you're not planning to see the person again, you can simply say **adios** as you leave.


2. Buenos días (good morning), **buenas tardes** (good afternoon), **buenas noches** (good evening). As a way to say good-bye, you can also add **buen día** (good day) during the day time or **buena noche** (good night) during the night time.

3. Señor (Mr.), **señora** (Mrs.), and **señorita** (Miss). Men will always be addressed as **señor**. Married women will be addressed as **señora**. Unmarried women will be addressed as **señorita**.

4. Por favor (please)

5. Lo siento (I'm sorry) and **disculpe** (excuse me)

6. Gracias (thank you) and **no, gracias** (no thank you). When you say, "thank you" to someone, they will usually reply with **de nada**, which means "you're welcome". Sometimes they may respond with **usted**.





Please note: Each of the families attending your school are unique. While it is so important to educate ourselves about cultures other than our own, it is equally important to avoid grouping students into a single category or make assumptions about a student based on what you know to be true of his or her culture. Learning the history and background of students is just one piece of understanding your students. If you would like to learn more about the Mexican culture please connect with your families at your school and take a look at the attached websites.

- <https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/mexico-guide>
- http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student_details.php?Id=14&CID=134
- <https://www.everyculture.com/Ma-Ni/Mexico.html#ixzz7h4CE8RqH>

