

## US SCHOOL SYSTEM

Every country in the world has got its own education system. That's why a student who lives America doesn't have the same system as a student who lives in Spain. America's education system is quite peculiar and these are the main characteristics and differences between Spanish and American education.

At a medium-sized high school in America there are about 1,300 students. In Spain, there are about 500 students. American high schools are divided into four grades. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, also known as freshman year, freshmen are 13-14 years old. In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, also known as sophomore year, sophomores are 15-16 years old. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, also called "Junior year", juniors are 17-18 years old. In 12<sup>th</sup> grade, known as "Senior year" students are 18-19 years old.

A school year is made up of 2 semesters. In Spain it's made up of three trimesters. In America, students must be in high school from 8.00 a.m. to 2.20 pm. They have four classes per day, each one is 85 minutes long. In Spain we have 6 classes, 50 minutes long each one. In each semester they must take four different subjects. There are electives and core requirements. Electives can be cooking, composition, weight-lifting, child-development... Core requirements are obligatory subjects such as maths, history, biology ... In electives you must get a 6.4 to pass and in core requirements you must get a 7. These subjects give you credits and if you don't have enough credits, you cannot graduate.

In America, teachers have their own classrooms and the students go from class to class every day. In Spain, it's the other way round. American students always call their teachers by their surname using Mr./Mrs or Ms.

In America, they have an attendance policy if you often play hooky, you could be expelled.

There are many differences between American and Spanish education system. But wherever you live, knowledge will always be the most important thing in education. It doesn't matter if you are American or Spanish.

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