



APPLICATION for ADMISSION to the INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY of WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

"Because you can only learn a language by using it."

Program Description

The International Spanish Academy (ISA) at Walton High School is a rigorous educational program in Spanish and English offered through the collaboration of Walton High School with the Ministry of Education of Spain. Students who enroll in the ISA must be recommended for 9th grade Honors Literature and AP Human Geography. Students accepted to the ISA will take 4 years of Spanish at Walton and 5 Honors & AP content area courses that include a delivery component in Spanish. Approximately 30% of an ISA student's overall coursework at Walton will be conducted in Spanish. For full participation in the ISA, the ISA graduates will earn a diploma from Walton and from the Ministry of Education of Spain. In collaboration with Spain's Ministry of Education, the International Spanish Academy will:

- educate students in the values of multicultural education to foster international communication and respect among different cultures;
- teach students to express themselves and effectively communicate in English and Spanish in their personal relationships and in an academic setting;
- facilitate and promote the access of students to prestigious centers of higher education throughout the U.S., Spain/Europe and Latin America.

Students are admitted into the ISA in their freshman year. Acceptance of admission into Walton's International Spanish Academy implies that a student will remain an Academy student throughout their high school career in order to earn both diplomas.

Students will take five AP exams within the ISA curriculum. All freshmen ISA students must take the AP Human Geography course and exam.

Approximately 30% of an ISA student's overall coursework at Walton will be conducted in Spanish. The following informational table outlines projected ISA courses as well as electives. *This table serves as a guide to inform students and parents of the general course direction to achieve the dual diplomas and is subject to change in order to accommodate the needs of the school, personnel, and/or of individual students.*

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
ISA Spanish II-Culture, Comparisons & Communication	ISA Spanish III Advanced -The Humanities: Art & History	ISA AP Spanish Language & Culture	ISA AP Spanish Literature & Culture
ISA Honors 9 th Grade Literature	ISA Honors World Literature & ISA AP US Government & Politics	ISA AP US History	ISA AP English Literature & Composition



Admission Requirements

Applicants of the graduating class of 2026 must reside within the Walton High School attendance zone. The admissions committee will consider the candidates based on information in the application package, including strong middle school grades, teacher recommendations, PSAT scores, Spanish grades in middle school, Spanish expression in application essay, and passion for the program demonstrated in the application essays. All decisions of the Walton ISA application committee are final.

Application Process and Timeline

- 1) Complete the personal information and student essays.
- 2) Teacher Recommendations:
 - a. **Print one or two copies** of the teacher recommendation form and write your name at the top of the page.
 - b. Ask your Spanish teacher to complete the form and send a hard copy directly to the address below. You may also choose to ask your social studies or language arts teacher to complete a second (optional) recommendation form.
 - c. Provide your teacher(s) with a stamped envelope, addressed as follows:
Ana López-Trenbeath, Director
International Spanish Academy
Walton High School
1590 Bill Murdock Road
Marietta, GA 30062
- 3) Include a copy of your 8th grade report card from first semester.
- 4) Include a copy of your PSAT score report from 8th grade. If you did not take the PSAT in 8th grade, please contact Mrs. Trenbeath for instructions on other acceptable standardized testing reports.
- 5) Complete the application and ensure that the applicant and a parent/guardian have signed and dated the **Declarations** page.
- 6) Submit application packet **to be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, January 14, 2022** to:
Ana López-Trenbeath, Director
International Spanish Academy
Walton High School
1590 Bill Murdock Rd.
Marietta, GA 30062
- 7) Decisions will be mailed to applicants on February 11, 2022 and letters of intent are due to the ISA program by March 18, 2022. Letters of intent may be emailed to ana.trenbeath@cobbk12.org.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is the ISA right for me?

Only you will be able to answer this question. Read the information on the ISA page at www.WaltonISA.org. Read some of the newsletters to find out more about what goes on in the ISA at Walton. Discuss your interest with your family and your current Spanish teacher. Additionally, ISA is only open to students in the Walton attendance zone. It is not a magnet program.

Will I have any flexibility in choosing my courses?

You will have a prescribed course of study in Spanish which will include four Spanish courses and five content area courses. The content area ISA courses are taught in English and Spanish. The delivery component in Spanish in the content area courses increases each year.

What if I am a member of the band or the orchestra?

We have many musicians in the ISA! You will have limited flexibility for extra electives as these music programs already occupy that time during your day. You might be eligible to add a tuition course (zero period) if you want to add a course to your schedule.

What if I don't think I can be successful in Honors or AP level courses, for example, in Spanish?

First, don't sell yourself short. If you are passionate about Spanish and a hard worker, more than likely you will be successful. Take into consideration that added support will be provided by the ISA faculty to help you as you acquire added fluency and ability in the language. Challenge yourself! You are not alone.

Can I drop out of the Academy?

By recommendation of the ISA faculty and/or the student's Guidance Counselor, or in extreme cases in consultation with the parents and teachers, students may be released from the ISA program. Special sections of ISA classes are hand scheduled for students to obtain the best possible scenario for success. Teacher allotments do not allow for flexibility once courses are established. So please make your considerations carefully and submit an application only if you are genuinely serious about obtaining proficiency in Spanish by your graduation from high school.

If I don't apply now, can I apply in my sophomore or junior year?

No. Applications are taken for entering freshmen only.

What's in it for me?

- Hard, challenging work toward dual high school diplomas from the only High School ISA in Georgia.
- The chance to use Spanish so that you are able to communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity.
- The opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Spanish language and culture.
- Expanded opportunities for international studies at the college level in the USA and Europe.
- A unique opportunity to draw attention to your high school transcript in competition for college admissions.
- A close-knit family, made of students and faculty to help and support you through your high school career at Walton.



Personal Information

Applicant's Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	FTE or Social Security Number
Street Address			Date of Birth
City	State	Zip	Home Phone Number
Parent / Guardian Name			Parent / Guardian Cell Number
Student's email			Parent / Guardian's email

List all of your previous Spanish studies

Level of Spanish	School year taken	Name of Spanish Teacher	Name of School

List any travel experiences to a Spanish-speaking country

Traveled to:	Year:	Traveled with (group):	Purpose of trip:

List anyone outside of school with whom you regularly speak in Spanish and their relationship to you, or any activity you are involved in outside of school where you use Spanish regularly.

Person (indicate relationship) or Activity	How often do you use Spanish with this person or while you are involved in this activity per week?



List any academic achievements, honors, or awards you have received

Honor or Award	Year:	Honor or Award	Year:

List any community service that you have provided or are involved with currently

Community Service	Hours per week:	Community Service	Hours per week:

List any non-academic extra-curricular activities and organizations in which you have participated:

Activity or Organization:	Activity or Organization:

You may attach additional pages if necessary.

Your interest in the ISA –Please write or print (do not type) and do not ask for assistance from your parents and/or Spanish teacher/tutor/speaker when completing the essays in English and Spanish. The ISA Admissions Committee would like to hear from you!

Briefly explain in English why you are interested in being accepted to the ISA at Walton and how knowing two languages might serve you in the future. (Use additional paper if necessary)



Declarations of Understanding by Student Applicant to the International Spanish Academy and the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Applicant:

We, the undersigned recognize and agree to the following:

- that admission to the International Spanish Academy (ISA) requires a four-year commitment to the program and to the outlined course of study;
- that in order to receive dual diplomas at graduation from Walton High School and the Ministry of Education of Spain the student must successfully complete 4 years of Spanish at Walton in addition to 5 content area classes that include substantive delivery in Spanish, or additional Spanish electives as they become available;
- that specific content focus will include not only Spanish language and communication abilities, but also literature, art, economic, social, political and international relations in the contemporary world;
- that the language of content instruction, process, and product will be Spanish;
- that the course instruction will be differentiated in content, process and product to meet the learning needs of all ISA students;
- that admission to the ISA is the decision of the Admissions Committee of the International Spanish Academy and Administration of Walton High School;
- that admission is based on the information contained in this application package, the teacher recommendation(s), and permanent records of the student without regard to race, national origin, creed, or gender;
- that I am learning Spanish as a foreign language
- that the essays in my applications were written by me without assistance from anyone

As the student applicant, I further understand:

- that during my 4 years at Walton, I will earn community service hours in which I use my knowledge of Spanish (serving the Hispanic community, internship at Wood Acres School Summer Camp, peer tutoring in Spanish, etc.). A letter or certificate verifying the hours must be submitted to Mrs. Trenbeath. If you would also like the hours to count toward Walton honor cords for graduation, please follow the directions for volunteer hour submission. These directions are found on the Walton website under Students.

As the student applicant I declare that:

- I am excited, and I am committed to working rigorously in all of my classes and to learn more about the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world;
- I will eagerly participate by using the Spanish language in my Spanish classes as well as my ISA content area courses;
- I have carefully read the attached information on the ISA and agree to enthusiastically collaborate with Walton High School and the Ministry of Education of Spain in fulfilling the objectives of the International Spanish Academy.
- I live in the attendance zone for Walton High School.

Signature of student

Date

Signature of parent

Date



Student: Last Name _____ First Name _____ FTE# _____

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY
WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

The above student is applying for admission to the International Spanish Academy at Walton High School to begin in August, 2022. S/he will take 4 years of Spanish at Walton along with 5 additional content area courses that include a component of Spanish through direct instruction or content.

Please respond to the following statements by indicating your rating of this student in the following categories, with (5) being that you strongly agree, and (1) being that you strongly disagree. If you have no basis for answering any one of the statements, please indicate by marking the N/A box.

The student:	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Sets high personal standards						
Responds well to challenges and rigorous assignments						
Is academically & intellectually curious						
Demonstrates highly developed language skills but is not a native speaker of Spanish						
Participates frequently in class discussion						
Completes work as assigned						
Is organized & detail-oriented						
Is excited about and <u>quick</u> to learn new and challenging material						
Responds appropriately to setbacks or constructive criticism						
Seeks help when needed						

Comments: Please add any comments that will give insight into this student's academic potential and/or social/cultural adaptability.

Please check that which best describes your recommendation:

___ Enthusiastically recommend ___ Recommend with reservation (please explain) ___ Do not recommend

Teacher's Name (Print)

Teacher's Signature

Date

Subject & Year Taught

School

Recommending Teacher's e-mail

Please send the form directly to Ana López-Trenbeath at Walton High School through school or US mail to arrive by January 14, 2022. Thank you!