

## ¡Vamos a cantar! (Let's Sing!)

Submitted by Laconia Teacher Anita Holdridge

They say music calms the savage beast. In this case...it calms TEENAGERS! One of the most fun parts of Spanish class is... just listening to music, right?! The endless “fiesta”! At Laconia, in *las clases de español*, almost every Wednesday is “*Música miércoles*” or “Music Wednesday.” Students listen to Hispanic songs and watch the videos that are produced with them.



But it's not just all fun and singing! The objectives from Mrs. Holdridge's perspective are to celebrate & learn about current and past Hispanic culture through the avenue of music. Artists featured come from the well-known countries of Mexico and Spain, but also from Cuba and Colombia and other Hispanic countries. Carlos Vives to Marc Anthony, Shakira to Sebastian Yatra, Alvaro Soler to Systema Solar - all over the map, the artists have a variety of styles and messages. The sounds of those from Spain differ from those in Puerto Rico, for example. Students can hear the “th” sound of the “c/z” from Spain and the dropping off of ends of words by those from the Caribbean. And of course “Senora H” reminds students of the rich grammar and structure contained in the songs (the least favorite part for the students, most likely!).

Avvry Henning, now a Spanish 4 student, said, “The music for *Locura de Marzo* and *Musica miercoles* is always great to hear in class. I love hearing the different types of music in Latin culture and I have loved it so much over the past four years that I have made a Spotify playlist that I listen to.” Below is Spanish 2 student Spotify playlist! And that student says, “I love seeing the different styles and talents each artist has in the videos! The music is always good and it's something I look forward to!”

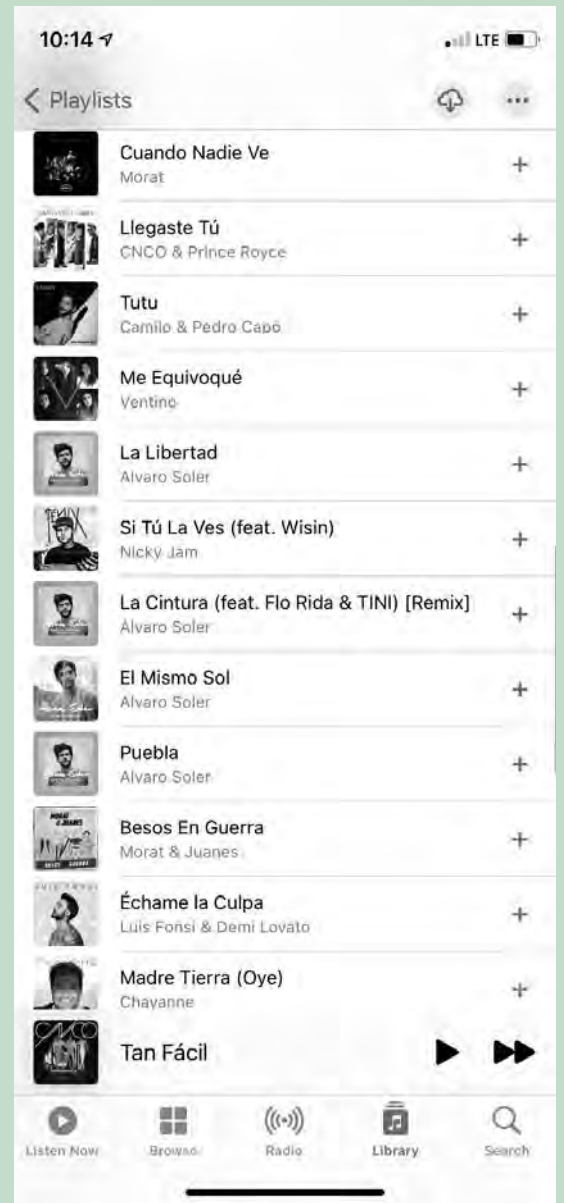
Another objective is to look at language in its poetic form: song lyrics. They are often more powerful than any story or grammar worksheet in conveying memorable phrases that students can walk away with. Every year, for example, on September 11, the students listen to “El ultimo adios.” In English, this song is “The Last Goodbye.” Students see that Latino artists gathered together after 9/11 to create a song that respected the heartbreak and loss that many felt on that day. Phrases like “*Nadie nos hará perder nuestra fe*” or “No one will make us lose our faith” and “*Se quebró la calma*” or “The calm broke” or “*Nadie va a cambiarnos*” or “No one will change us” were some of the phrases that students said touched them and were memorable. Or a song from last year called “*Celebrate*” which simply encouraged listeners to get out and celebrate the world. “*Voy a bailar sin freno*

*para curarme la herida/ Voy a cantar sin miedo esta canción*” has often been sung out happily in many a class. In English, this reads: “I'm going to dance without stopping in order to cure my hurts/I'm going to sing this song without fear.” Or simple songs like Camila Cabello and Alejandro Sanz's duo of “*Mi persona favorita.*” I think you can figure that one out in English!

**\*\*Be a part of the Locura!\*\***

Every March, Ben Ashby, a Spanish teacher from Grand Rapids, Michigan creates what's called “*Locura de marzo*” to rival any “March Madness” bracket. It's a competition of Spanish-language songs--not basketball teams! Students (& adults!) from all over the world vote on their favorites. On one day, for example in March of this year, almost 59,000 people voted! But this year, many teachers are needing something to get students motivated in the fall! So he's created “*Locotubre*” (Crazy October) for students and teachers from around the world! The songs that will

face off against each other are the top four winners from the last four years. The “Sweet Sixteen” Songs will be voted on by thousands of people around the world--and by Laconia students! If you want to see what the top four songs of the last four years were, please take a peek on Youtube of this October's songs. Search for “2020 Locotubre Promo Video” on Youtube to see snippets of them! You may even recognize some of them. For instance, does “Waka Waka” by Shakira ring a bell? And if you want to participate in the competition, which starts on October 19, visit <http://www.senorashby.com/locotubre.html> You may find a new song for your next playlist!



## Publications Bonding

Submitted by Paige Zickert

The class Publications and Yearbook works all year long to assemble the Spartan Sentinel newspaper and plan and create the Laconian yearbook. Due to the class' project-based nature, we tend to try to bond with different types of games.

One game is “Elephant”. One person points to another, the two people around are the ears, and the one person who has been pointed to has a trunk. The person who has the trunk has to point to the next person and the process continues. We added many of our personal touches and added more to the game to make it more fun for all of us, including poses like drive a car and palm tree. We include our virtual students and our in-person students.

Games like these have everyone laughing and trying to go as fast as they can to keep the game going. They also help the class bond so we can keep creating award-winning yearbooks.

**Annah Lyyski, Anita Stafford, Harmony Snellenberger, Miranda Boyd, Sophie Newbury holding a laptop with Olivia Meyer and Kelsy Laudolff, Emily Farr, Samantha Piechocky, and Paige Zickert.**



## THE SPARTAN SENTINEL

Is published monthly during the school year by the Rosendale-Brandon School District  
300 West Wisconsin Street  
Rosendale, WI 54974

Spartan Sentinel Staff  
Editor: Danielle Olejniczak  
Layout: Laconia High School publications class

Vol. 40 No. 2, October 2, 2020

Watch your mailbox! The next edition of *The Spartan Sentinel* will reach your mailbox on Nov 6. Email submissions to Danielle Olejniczak ([publications@rbsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:publications@rbsd.k12.wi.us)) by Thursday, October 15, 2020.

## NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rosendale-Brandon School District, in accordance with state and federal law, does not discriminate because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, disability, military or veteran status, political affiliation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or hardship, or other basis prohibited under state and federal law, in its employment and educational policies and practices, including those for career and Technical Education courses.