





My name is Marta Beltran.

I am the 1st grade Spanish Immersion teacher at Viridian Elementary. I was born in Bogota, Colombia. This is my 18th year in education. I attended the Pontifical Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Affairs. I have a Master's degree in Education from the same university, one in Bilingual Education from SMU at Dallas, and I am currently getting another masters in School Counseling and Licensed Professional Counselor at Texas A&M - Commerce.

Why am I a Spanish Immersion teacher?

As a Spanish immersion teacher, I get to combine my passion for language and culture with the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on my students' lives. By introducing young learners to Spanish, I'm not only helping them become bilingual but also enhancing their cognitive abilities, such as problem-solving and critical thinking. This role allows me to create an inclusive classroom environment where cultural diversity is celebrated and respected. The personal fulfillment I feel when I see my students grow, succeed, and gain confidence in their language skills makes teaching incredibly rewarding, especially when I work with curious and energetic young children.



My name is Danya Roldan.

I am the Second Grade Spanish Immersion Teacher at Viridian Elementary. I was born and raised in Puerto Rico. This is my 9th year in education.

Why am I a Spanish Immersion teacher?

Immersion Programs embrace all heritages, open many opportunities and bring a great sense of belonging. I strongly believe students have a positive impact from this amazing program. They develop greater cognitive flexibility, attention control and problem-solving skills. Being bilingual opens many doors which may help any person become valuable to many local and international businesses.



My name is Lisa Marie Hernandez-Garcia
I teach third grade Spanish Immersion at Viridian Elementary. I was born and raised in Puerto Rico. I've taught for 14 years and was in Grand Prairie ISD before joining HEB.

Why am I a Spanish Immersion teacher?

I believe we need to prepare our children for a constantly changing global economy where we reach more people, countries and cultures. Being bilingual is a gift that will benefit them for life, opening their world to new cultures, challenging them intellectually and providing opportunities for their future.



My name is Desirre Madrid.
I teach 4th grade Spanish Immersion at Viridian Elementary. I was born and raised in El Paso, TX. This is my 31st year in education. I attended New Mexico State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Education Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Why am I a Spanish Immersion teacher?

As a second language learner myself, I know first hand the many benefits of learning a second language. Teaching Spanish Immersion gives me the opportunity to be able to teach the next generation of scientists, engineers, artists, dancers, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, etc and having that benefit of knowing two or more languages is going to open many doors for them. Teaching them about culture and diversity will also teach them to be more empathetic, accepting and kinder humans. Knowing a second language also gives my students those soft skills that many employers will be looking for when they go out into the world. I love being able to be a part of their growth and to see them succeed and achieve their dreams, which is why I love being a Spanish Immersion teacher.



My name is Margarito Núñez
I teach 5th grade Spanish Immersion at Viridian Elementary. I was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas Mexico. I am entering my 17th year of teaching. I received my teaching degree from the University of North Texas and my Masters in Mathematics and Sciences from University of Texas at Arlington. Previous to this, I honorably served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Why are you a Spanish immersion teacher?

I first began my journey in education teaching on a bilingual campus. The opportunity to teach multilingual students from diverse backgrounds has been an opportunity that I wanted in my educational career. I learned that Spanish Immersion was another facet of bilingual education that truly interested me. I am able to encourage and engage students in rigorous applications while teaching them in two languages.



My name is Asiel Payan.
I am the 6th grade Spanish Immersion teacher at Viridian Elementary. I was born in the United States to two wonderful Mexican parents.

This is my 12th year in education. I attended The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and earned my degree in bilingual education.

Why are you a Spanish immersion teacher? I believe that participating in a Spanish immersion program provides invaluable benefits, both academically and personally. Being fluent in more than one language opens numerous opportunities to students and the ability to converse in multiple languages is a significant advantage, fostering better understanding and collaboration across cultures.

