



Ruthell Martinez

Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Ruthell Martinez

POSITION: Intervention Specialist

School: Sharpstein Elementary

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 4 years

Q. What are the main responsibilities of an Intervention Specialist?

A. I organize groups of students who need additional support. I also manage attendance and truancy issues. Staff members come to me and ask for my assistance if they are having a challenge with a student. I may do this for the secretary as well. Every day is different so it is really exciting. I work with students with behavior and social and emotional needs and help develop their social skills.

Q. Why are Intervention Specialists so important for the schools?

A. Parents who are struggling need the additional support. I work with a lot of single mothers and they often need help. Many don't have extended family here which makes it even more difficult.

Q. Why do you form groups of students?

A. There are friendships groups I organize during school hours to help the students learn how to be a good friend. I have afterschool groups for fifth grade boys and girls. I have a Stomper Hangout group for fourth and fifth grade students. Groups allow students to develop skills because of the group setting. If they are alone, they do not develop the social skills. Sharpstein is also a dual language school which keeps certain groups of students from interacting with others. The group model is another way for all students to get to know each other.

Q. How have you incorporated businesses into your program?

A. I have been able to connect with the YMCA so students have an opportunity to see what the Y is all about. Some of these students have never been to the YMCA. We've recently connected with Sweet Basil Pizzeria. Students learn how to make their own pizza and see how a business operates. We have other partners too.

Over



NOTES:
Families are welcoming and want help. They understand the importance of the support I provide.



Highlights Ruthell Martinez

My husband, Ruben Hernandez, is from Walla Walla. He is part of the 21st Century grant program at Blue Ridge.



We have a two year-old-son, Romeo. We are busy!

I grew up in Wenatchee and graduated from Eastmont High School. I attended Eastern Washington University and graduated with a degree in criminal justice and sociology.