

# Equity and Dual Programs

Newsletter

Fall 2021



## *A message from the Director of Equity and Dual Programs*

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 School Year! We are excited and honored to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the students, families and communities in our schools that enrich our lives and inspire us. This month, in particular, we will spotlighting a few of our own staff members who inspire us each day.

-Dr. Julie Perrón

## *NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE*

**Hispanic Heritage Month** is an official national celebration that honors the history and cultural influence of past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

### **When is Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated?**

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15.

### **What is the difference between Hispanic and Latino?**

While many people use Latino and Hispanic interchangeably these two words mean different things.

**Latino** is used when referring to someone who comes from Latin America, or is a descendant from any Latin American country. A **Hispanic** person is someone who comes from, or is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country. A person can be both Hispanic and Latino, but not all Latinos are Hispanic. For example, Brazilians are Latinos, but their native language is not Spanish. Similarly, Spaniards are considered Hispanic, but not Latinos, since they are part of Europe.

For more information on Hispanic Heritage Month:

<https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>



## **RESOURCES:**

<https://www.pbssocal.org/education/how-to-honor-indigenous-peoples-with-your-kids-today-and-every-day>

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/>

<https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/14/a-proclamation-on-national-hispanic-heritage-month-2021/>

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**EQUITY DEPARTMENT HOTLINE:  
509-526-6787**

# EQUITY AND DUAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT STAFF

## ~SPOTLIGHT~

My name is **Stephanie Reyes Espinoza**. I am the youngest of seven, born and raised in this town so nice that they named it twice (Walla Walla). Being a Walla Walla native, I attended the public schools such as Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison Middle School, and graduated in 2015 from Walla Walla High School. I completed my Associate's degree at Walla Walla Community College and went on to complete my Bachelors of Arts Degree in Law and Justice with a minor in Spanish at Central Washington University.

This is my first year in the district and in this position as the K-12 Migrant Specialist. This position has given me the opportunity to be able to help families going through the journey of education in the public schools. It has also given me the opportunity to be

resourceful by helping students and families have success while attending our school district. One of the many things that I most enjoy in my position is being able to connect and understand families who have migrated to our area that need guidance and a leading hand to assure them that they are where they belong.

Aside from enjoying my job, one of my favorite things to do outside of work is taking long walks through our beautiful downtown while enjoying a cup of coffee and/or ice cream. I also love to travel around the world when the opportunity arises. I am very excited to be in this position and see what is to come this school year.

**-Stephanie Reyes Espinoza**  
**K-12 Migrant Specialist**



My name is **Samantha Ruiz** and I was born in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico. I have lived in Walla Walla almost my entire life. I attended Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison Middle School and graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1994 then attended Walla Walla Community College.

In 2015, I started out as Assistant Secretary at Walla Walla High School in the attendance office. Working in that position, I learned that many of our student's need guidance and understanding. Building relationships and really connecting with students and learning about their stories is what really inspired me to join The Equity and Dual Programs Department at the Walla Walla School District.

As the Student Equity Engagement Intervention Specialist, I will be able to dedicate

my time in serving parents and students that are underrepresented and linguistically diverse. My goal is to promote parent and student participation in attendance, school activities and student related events as well as, advocate for parents in student/school related matters.

On my days off, I enjoy watching movies, upcycling fashion with my eldest daughter and working on art or craft projects in all types of mediums. One of my life goals is to travel to Italy and enjoy the architecture and the art from the renaissance era. I would also like to learn another language and have my children learn along with me. I am looking forward to being able to continue making connections with students and their families.

There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you made a difference in someone's life.

**-Samantha Ruiz**  
**Student Equity & Engagement**  
**Intervention Specialist**

