

Four Questions for Romeo Fernandez, Earhart Elementary's Custodian

Romeo Fernandez has been working for AUSD for 19 years. During his tenure with the district, he has worked at Alameda High School, Bay Farm School, and Woodstock Child and Development Center. He is currently the head custodian at Earhart Elementary School.

Walk me through your day. What are your responsibilities here at Earhart School?

I arrive at 6:15 am to open the school. I raise the flag. Then I leaf blow around the campus to help the school look better. I also check for graffiti and other kinds of vandalism, and I pick up any litter on the ground. Then I set up the sound system for the morning ceremony.



I set up the MPR for lunchtime. And throughout the day I respond to any needs of teachers or other staff, like if there's a spill, or a child throws up, or someone runs out of paper towels.

What do you like about your job?

I feel like I'm helping a lot of kids. I work hard for them! I want the kids, the parents, and the staff here to be happy. If you're doing a lot of work, they can see it, and they're appreciative. That makes my heart get big. Sometimes I wish I could clean even more.



What advice would you give to a new custodian?

Get to work on time and leave on time. Do your best. Follow the procedures. Work hard!

But the most important thing is communication. You have to have open communication with the principal and teachers. Also be nice to everyone, especially the children. And always have a smiley face.

What's something special that you do at the school every day?

Every morning I open the gates to our school, and I say "good-morning" and "welcome" to the everyone. People say it sounds like Walmart. I love it!