



OUR

# Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



## Kathy Molina: Immersive Learning Inspires Career Exploration

*From Pizzerias and Bakeries, to Construction Zones and Hard Hats. Apricot Valley Teacher Kathy Molina has used different careers and real world scenarios as a way to engage her students in the classroom. A 22 year employee of the District, Ms. Molina has left impressions on students that have lasted decades, and some of her past students have even gone on to have careers within our District. In this month's "Our Promise Features" we will take a dive into how Ms. Kathy Molina is inspiring students to explore careers influenced by what they are learning in the classroom.*



### Pizza's, Hard Hats, and Math

Throughout her teaching career, Kathy Molina has been impacting and inspiring students with her unique teaching style, particularly with her hands-on, student discourse oriented learning activities focusing on students implementing their monthly lesson modules into real world situations.

In April, Ms. Molina led an activity with other third grade teachers at Apricot Valley and transformed the Cafeteria into a Pizzeria. The activity used pizza as a denominator to teach fractions.

Students had worksheets with questions like "How many slices of pizza have pepperoni," and they were answered using standard fractional notations.

"I love seeing that light bulb go off for the kids," said Molina.  
"...Seeing that joy in them that they got it, and them being so proud of themselves that they met their goals."





**“It gives kids the ability to see how [what they learn in the classroom] is used in real life. They may choose one of these activities for a career.”**

In the module before the Pizzeria, students dressed up as construction workers with hard hats, safety glasses, vests, and measured areas and perimeters.

“[The students] love it. I’ve had a lot of parents mention that their kids will go home and continue to play and measure things around the house...I tell them, ‘If you’re going to be putting flooring in your house, you’re gonna need the area and perimeter for carpet or tile, any of those things.’”

Molina herself has been inspired by the District’s support of College & Career readiness and has used her unique teaching methods as a way to introduce students to possible career fields.

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Molina said that there was a large interest in students wanting to become bakers after one of their activities used graham crackers and M&M’s as distributive properties.

“They dress up as bakers and we do different things using multiplication arrays...It’s really cool because they get so into it, and what I love is that they still talk about it. I have former students [who still talk about it]...I’m thankful that I have such a great team [at Apricot Valley] that is willing to work together and we as a team are able to do these fun learning activities. “