



# EQUITY AND DUAL PROGRAMS

## DEPARTMENT

Fall Newsletter

September 2023

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

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year. This year we continue to celebrate the diversity of our talented students, staff and families. As we create connections with our families, we also strive to promote the importance of multilingualism as an asset and a resource.

This year we envision our classrooms as beautiful gardens, with our talented teachers meeting the need of every seed, and being excited about how our students grow. We are all gardeners in our way, and each garden will be unique.

Let us welcome back our families with smiles and open arms, and kick off this year with joy!

-Dr. Julie Perrón

## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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://nationaltoday.com/hispanic-heritage-month/>

### Resources:

Take a tour of the Pyramids without leaving home, No passport required!  
<https://www.youvisit.com/tour/panoramas/teotihuacan?id=36551>

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/hispanic-heritage-month.html>

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/topics/latino-history/pages/hispanic-heritage-month-2022>

<https://www.twinkl.com/event/hispanic-heritage-month-usa-2022>



At the age of 18, artist Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) was nearly killed in a bus accident. Although she never fully recovered, she spent two years healing and passed much of that time creating self-portraits. Today, Frida Kahlo is famous for her paintings, particularly the self-portraits that illustrated her pride in her Mexican heritage and identity.

## >>>>> STAFF SPOTLIGHT <<<<<<

Hola, soy Marlene Perez. I am the proud daughter of two Mexican immigrants, Emma and Alfredo Perez. Though neither parent progressed past a middle school education, they both believed, with passion, that education was the way to a "better life" for my sister and me. I had the unique real life experience of being an English language learner, from a monolingual, Spanish speaking home, to attend public schools in the United States. This experience opened my eyes to the challenges that so many of our students experience and a deep empathy and commitment to ensuring that ALL children see their language differences as an asset and leading as a principal, personalized and differentiated learning for each child to ensure they reach their full potential, without judgement, celebrating diversity as a rich asset.

I have a passion for education and a heart for ALL children. I was born in Los Angeles, CA. and raised in South Central LA and the Columbia River Gorge. I graduated from Columbia High School. I began my education career as a para educator and later obtained my Bachelor's degree from Washington State University and went on to earn my Master's degree in school administration from Heritage University. I love working with kids and witnessing their remarkable growth.

My husband, Andrew, and I, have loved being welcomed into the Walla Walla community. We have a great blended family. I am the proud mother of two children, Monique (19) and Hector (14), as well as six "bonus" kids. All of our children have thrived in public schools.

My commitment to Walla Walla Public Schools is to treat each child "as if they were my own". I love my vocation and am excited and honored to begin the 2023-24 school year as the Proud Principal of the Edison Elementary Shockers!



-Marlene Perez  
Edison Elementary Principal

I was born and raised in Walla Walla, WA. My roots come from Guerrero, Mexico. I recently got married last November to my lovely wife Maria Brito. I attended Sharpstein, Garrison and WA-HI. Also did running start during my senior year in Community College. I always had a desire to help others so I started working as a Nursing Assistant. During the age of 22, I returned to Community College to complete one year of Electrical Apprenticeship. Funny to say but I did not end up in that career path due to the desire of helping others in a more personal way rather than just wiring their house. I have been in the district for about 7 years first working as a Health Room Assistant and then as an Intervention Specialist Home Liaison. This school year I will be working as the new Migrant Specialist, where I can personally continue to help our students and families.

-Oscar Brito Salgado  
K-12 Migrant Specialist



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**EQUITY DEPARTMENT**  
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<https://www.wwps.org/departments/equity-and-dual-programs>