



Meet Ms. Veronica Allen, Dual Language Kindergarten teacher at McClure Elementary School. A respected and admired teacher with the Grandview School District since 2010, Veronica says, "I began my teaching career at McClure in 2010 as a Kindergarten teacher, and have been there ever since. I truly love working at McClure! I taught TBIP for 13 years, then English for one year, and now I am in my 15th year of teaching all Kindergarten as a Kindergarten teacher. This is my first year as a Dual Language teacher, and I am enjoying witnessing these scholars become bilingual/biliterate."

Ms. Allen was born in Toppenish, and is a proud 2002 graduate of Eagle High School which is the alternative high school in Toppenish. She continued her education at Heritage University receiving her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and an ELL endorsement, then later graduated with her Master's degree from Heritage University in Organizational Leadership in 2015.

Veronica is the younger sibling of two with an older brother. She has two beautiful daughters, Jocelyn 24, and Alizzay 18. She has been happily married for 12 years and says "I love traveling with my family and dogs. Whether it's a short distance or a drive from coast to coast."

We asked Ms. Allen what her favorite part of teaching was, and she replied, "My favorite part about teaching is watching every little scholar enter my classroom in the morning with a big smile, excited to be at school, and greeting them with a '¡Buenos Días!' and also seeing them grow and blossom into confident, capable little humans in 180 days is truly amazing!"

There are always moments where teachers are proud of their students and their work, so when asked about Ms. Allen's proudest moments, she said, "The proudest moment I've had with students is when I witness the 'aha!' moments. It's such a great feeling when I can see that light bulb has finally lit up completely. It's a reminder that perseverance and dedication from both the teacher and the student will lead you to great success!"

When asked what advice she would give a new incoming teacher, she says, "First build strong relationships with each individual child and their family. Take the time to get to know each child. Take it slow. One day at a time. Also, ask questions and don't feel bad for asking for help." Ms. Allen continues, "It will get better, even when it feels like you don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. I promise it will get better!"

Ms. Allen says she would tell her 'first-year' teacher self that, "It's ok if it doesn't get done. It's ok if that lesson didn't go well. It's ok to make mistakes. Every day is a new day to try again and make it better. It will all work out in the end."

Thank you Ms. Veronica Allen for your dedication and support of our McClure Elementary students, families, and staff members. We truly thank you.