



OUR Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



Irma Olvera: Celebrating Over 30 Year's at Northmead

For this month's Promise Feature, we're proud to highlight a beloved member of Northmead Elementary, Mrs. Irma Olvera. Irma has been with our District at Northmead since May of 1990, and even attended the school herself back when it was just a two story brick building!

From Clerk to Cornerstone

Starting out as a School Clerk, then Attendance Clerk, and now as Northmead's Administrative Assistant, Irma has spent her entire career at Northmead, and wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love it here," said Irma. "This is my place."

Over the years, Irma has worn many hats. She's helped with attendance, registrations (back when they were all done by paper), she has interpreted for families, ordered supplies, helped with managing budgets, and most recently some of her duties include overseeing payroll and purchase orders.

"I've gone through everything pretty much. All the steps through all the years."

Irma's 35 year career at Northmead has been deeply fueled by the relationships she's built over the years with students, families, and colleagues.

"We're like a family here."



“Mrs. Olvera is the keeper of all information about Northmead...”

With deep roots in Patterson and decades at Northmead, Irma has built lasting connections with families across generations. Former students and parents still stop her in the grocery store to say hello and share updates about their lives, with older students and parents often recognizing her without her glasses and newer families recognizing her when she has them on.

“It’s really nice to see [parents and former students]. They always say hi and talk about their kids and tell me about how they’re doing in college...For them, their time at Northmead was ‘the good old days’,” said a reflecting Irma.

As a Patterson native and Patterson High School Class of 1977 graduate, her roots run deep. Irma has eight grandchildren, including two currently at Northmead.

When it comes to retirement, Irma is not ready. She said next year she will be here for sure, and that after that she will take it one year at a time.

“Mrs. Olvera has a wealth of knowledge and skills from 35 years of service and a sense of humor that is infectious,” said Northmead Principal, Jill Ziegler. “She works with everyone as if they were family, and is dedicated to the success of every student and staff member. Mrs. Olvera is the keeper of all information about Northmead which is a huge database since she attended Northmead when it was the original two story brick building...[She has] trained every new principal and office staff with compassion and patience. She is the epitome of the PJUSD Promise.”