






María del Pilar Gaona



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WORK EXPERIENCE

Bilingual Reading Content Interventionist

Andrews Elementary School, Austin ISD, Texas
(January 2023-Present)

- Provide reading and writing instructional support to learners at the elementary level developing lessons to strengthen their literacy skills.

Kindergarten and Sixth-grade Spanish teacher/Sixth-grade Advisor

The School at Columbia University, New York, NY
(2014-2020)

- Developed a multicultural and integrated curriculum for 120 students each academic year in Kindergarten and sixth grade using technology, songs, games, authentic props, TPR, Project-Based Learning, and grammar activities.
- Assisted students on the proficiency pathway to becoming Intermediate Low speakers in Spanish creating Integrated Performance Assessments and projects to provide effective feedback.
- Offered extra help to sixth graders during Academic Lab and after-school to provide individualized instruction and reinforcement.
- Advisor for eight Sixth-graders each academic year helping them to transition smoothly to Middle School.
- Helped to organize teachers' gatherings to build community among other schools.
- Applied Bloom's Taxonomy and current best practices in designing and developing course content to build an appropriately-scaffolded lesson for each grade band audience.
- Coordinated school events for students and parents.
- Analyzed data to make informed decisions, strategic planning, and promote growth opportunities.
- Made part of the Recruiting Team for new teachers.

- Kept constant communication with parents, administrators, the SEL department, and other colleagues for students' academic achievement and well-being.

Presenter at NYSAIS Teaching With Technology Conference (TWT16 and TWT18) with the workshop Being SMART with World Languages

Léman Manhattan, New York, NY (April 2016 and April 2018)

- Provided sample lessons for world language teachers using SMART Notebook software; teachers created their own lessons and activities by the end of the workshop.

Instructor at Teach21 with the workshop SMART Interactive Tools and Apps in World Languages and Beyond

The School at Columbia University, New York, NY (2016-2019)

- Provided sample units for educators using SMART Notebook software, iPad apps, Google Classroom, Edmodo, Miro, Canva, Screencastify, Classkick, PearDeck, Google Suit, ClassDojo, and other technical resources; attendees developed their own materials by the end of the session.

SKILLS

- Implementing the Spanish multisensory reading, writing, and spelling approach of the Esperanza program
- Utilize technology for administrative support
- Proficient in Google Workspace for education, Microsoft Office, Slack, Jira, Canvas LMS, and Zoom
- Develop successful curriculum content and administrative strategies
- Full understanding of ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and Standards
- Maintain accurate documentation and respect confidential information

EDUCATION

- Master's Degree in World Language Education
New Jersey City University, 2012
- Master's Degree in Teaching / Learning Spanish Language and Culture
University of Granada, Spain, 2016
- Bachelor's Degree in Social Communication and Journalism
Autonoma University in Cali-Colombia, 2004



Spanish Teacher

Tenaflly Public High School, Tenaflly, NJ (08/2013-08/2014)

- Developed and implemented comprehensive lesson plans for 112 students who were part of Spanish I CPB, Spanish I, and Spanish III at the High School level. Students started with Intermediate Mid language level and ended with Intermediate High.
- Identified, selected, and modified resources to meet students diverse needs through self-assessments.
- Opportunities were offered to students to demonstrate their ability to communicate in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes prescribed by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines through different types of Integrated Performance Assessments.

ESL Instructor/Literacy Assistant

Literacy Program- Free Jersey City Public Library (10/2009-08/2014)

- Created curriculum and developed workshops and classes for adults such as Preparing for a Job in the U.S., American History, Movie Club, the Beginner Citizenship class, ESL II, and Conversation Club.
- Provided one-on-one classes to immigrants, and large and small groups of adults in the literacy field.
- Provided administrative support for the Literacy Program.
- Designed newsletters and publicity for the program, and served as an institutional photographer.

Spanish Teacher K-8

Hoboken Charter School, Hoboken, NJ (12/2011-06/2013)

- Integrated multicultural units, manipulative, and grammar materials to vary lessons and consolidate concepts that accommodate all levels of learners across Kindergarten through Eight grade with a total of 300 students.
- Created the World Language's curriculum based on the ACTFL's standards and the Five Cs, which are Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparison, and Communities.
- Offered after-school support to students to help them to improve their fluency in the language.
- Coordinated school events for students and parents.

CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATES

- Instructional Design Foundations and Application Certificate, University of Illinois, 2022
- Pursuing a certificate in Language Teaching with Technology University of Colorado Boulder, 2018
- Responsive Classroom Course for Middle School Educators, 2016
- New Jersey Standard Certificate as a Spanish Teacher
- Student Oral Proficiency (SOPA) Assessment

PERSONAL INTEREST

Self-publishing Author

- My Rainbow Baby launching in the 2023 springtime

