

*Volunteer Reflection Paper*

Carina Valtierra

*Master in Teaching Program*

I have the opportunity to work for a non-profit organization based in four different school sites. I primarily work at Pleasant Glade Elementary as the lead facilitator. As the lead facilitator I primarily work with students (1st-5th grade) and volunteers, assisting through academic and enrichment activities, physical education, games, STEM and Art activities and leadership training. Being that I am bilingual, I also have the opportunity to participate in Dual Language Committee meetings and curriculum design. I have actively engaged in creating lesson plans in Spanish to offer to students, who English is their second language. Studies support the idea that students who are enrolled in dual language programs have higher academic success which is supported through our program. Students have shown great interest in the dual language program and have demonstrated well-rounded academic achievements in all subjects.

Throughout my time with TOGETHER I have fostered and maintained a creative, collaborative and supportive educational environment for all students. I have become proficient in lesson planning and have been able to use my psychological knowledge to further create a safe and inclusive learning environment. Pleasant Glade qualifies as a Title 1 school which has prepared me to work with socially, culturally, and economically diverse populations both in regards to students and parents.

This position has led me to pursue my Masters in Education. I have discovered a passion for teaching and have obtained useful knowledge throughout my time with this organization. I have acquired skills which will set me up for a successful career in teaching after successfully completing my Master in Education.