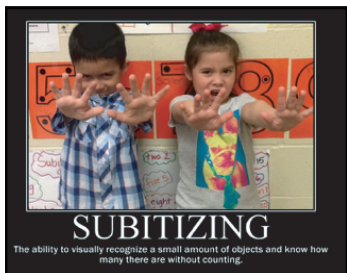




Creative Teacher

Lisa Salazar



Kindergarten students creating their own academic vocabulary. "Subitizing" here is recognizing ten fingers equals the number 10

Prior to becoming a second grade teacher, Lisa Salazar taught kindergarten her first year at Blanca E. Sanchez Elementary. "I remember thinking that I was their first introduction to their educational future," said Mrs. Salazar. "If I am positive, I can influence

them in the right way because they are still curious and really want to learn." Students usually enter school as a question mark and graduate as a period. When they are young, they are excited about learning. "Make the most of every minute," she advises.



After learning about the Spanish Flu, students find a photo of the virus and develop their own posters

As a former marketing and advertising executive and manager, Mrs. Salazar became very adept at utilizing technology. This experience has served her well in the classroom. She was recently introduced to the app *neuropod* at a PYP roundtable training held at Dr. Pablo Perez Elementary earlier this year. She was able to take what she learned over a weekend of training and utilize the technology Monday morning in the classroom. She was able to have her students follow along their Ipad while she synced her Ipad to her MacBook Pro and wirelessly projected custom made presentations that allowed her to interact with her students in real time. The app allowed students to submit immediate responses to questions that allowed her to adjust her teaching as she went along. "This made it easy



Lisa Sanchez, Second Grade Teacher
Blanca Sanchez Elementary

"My advice to educators is to join McAllen AFT. You need professional support."

for the children to follow along and be engaged. If someone did not understand, I knew immediately as opposed to waiting for a test a week later to find out they didn't understand." At another training with her ACT program last year, she was also introduced to the website www.bighugelabs.com. This website allows the kids to create personalized posters, name tags, magazine covers, pop art, jigsaw puzzles, and more. It is so easy to use on the Ipad or computer. "I love using the motivational posters with academic vocabulary because the students create their own photos and never forget it, because they created it." With the upcoming 5th grade exhibition, teachers are required to mentor students with their projects. The virus posters is one example of how [bighugelabs.com](http://www.bighugelabs.com) is helpful.

Second Grade



To find out more about this website, visit: bighugelabs.com

"Teaching second grade was a different experience," says Lisa. Interaction with parents lessens because the students are more mature and have a better understanding about what you are teaching. Being a teacher is like being a life coach. You not only prepare students academically, you teach

them how to be good positive members of society, like apologizing to others and forgiving one another. Children need and crave structure. The most exciting part of the job is when they reach that moment of understanding. You go from "I don't know," to "I do know!"

