



KPS

Meeting The Challenge!

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Dr. Irene Vasquez conducted a three-day Life Mapping workshop in my bilingual skills classroom at South Middle School during April of 1997. She presented the concept encompassed in this workshop in a very thorough manner and engaged the students in the process immediately. Dr. Vasquez displayed a sincere interest in each of the children. Her sensitivity and enthusiasm encouraged even the shyest students to be creative and to look into themselves.

This was a wonderful experience for my students who are in the seventh and eighth grades. They had the opportunity to explore and portray visually what is important and influential in their lives. This workshop gave not only my students but also Dr. Vasquez and myself insight into the factors that affect and concern teenagers. The life maps that were produced were interesting and attractive, but more important, they were a source of pride for my students. We displayed the maps in the classroom, and, at the end of the year, many took them home. I know this was an enjoyable learning experience for them.

I have also had the opportunity to see several performances put on by Dr. Vasquez and the Magical Rain Theaterworks. My students and I viewed "Uvieta" at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and I saw a second performance of this same play at the Hispanic American Council. I also watched the students from the Caras y Mascaras (Faces and Masks) project perform in a drama entitled "The Popul Vuh." These were thoroughly enjoyable cultural experiences. Caras y Mascaras was an excellent after-school series of workshops which gave the students at South Middle School an opportunity to explore themselves through the visual arts.

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Vasquez and the Magical Rain Theaterworks.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Devers