

Shelly Ramirez

It is an honor to recognize Shelly Ramirez as Classified Employee of the Month for December 2019. In my short time as Principal at Spring Creek Elementary School, I have come to depend on Shelly to help with anything we need at Spring Creek. Her hard work ethic and dedication to our staff and students comes straight from her heart.

The love she has for children and Spring Creek began when her first of five children went through Spring Creek. All five of her children ages 8-22 years old, attended Spring Creek and her youngest, Manny, is currently a 2nd grader. Our students call her Miss Shelly. Miss Shelly started working at Spring Creek three and a half years ago when her son Manny was in TK.

Shelly wears many hats at Spring Creek. She is a stellar noon duty supervisor who never complains about the heat, the cold, the wind or snotty noses. Another hat Miss Shelly wears is kindergarten aide where she works in Ms. Gronlund's class. Miss Shelly works in several other kindergarten classes where she supports our most vulnerable students. Miss Shelly works as an intervention aide helping support students. Each morning and afternoon, Miss Shelly checks in with certain students and supports them to make positive choices. Shelly uses our Social Emotional Learning Curriculum called the Zones of Regulation which helps students regulate their emotions. It is not uncommon for Miss Shelly to spend her own money purchasing snacks for students who are hungry or for prizes as an incentive for positive choices. She helps students set goals and follows through with each of their teachers. It is not uncommon for Shelly to take home cutting and other projects where she works at home in the evenings.

I asked Shelly the following questions:

What do you love about working at Spring Creek? "I have loved the school because the staff makes me feel included and appreciated. The teachers helped me navigate getting an IEP for my oldest son when I did not know anything about special education services."

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Spring Creek? "I like everything about it and can't pinpoint anything."

What is one of the funniest things you heard a kid say or do? Once, the Spring Creek Office called me to say that my son was bitten on his lip by two hermit crabs that he brought in for sharing; the second was when a student was talking about some very

interesting behaviors that seemed questionable until the student mentioned that the females they were referring to were cats.

This is what staff who work with Miss Shelly have to say:

We love you, Miss Shelly, for sharing your heart with the students. Your heart shines through everything you do. It is obvious that you care so deeply. Thank you for taking such great care of our kiddos. Anything we ask of you, you do without hesitation.

This is what students say about Miss Shelly:

“ Miss Shelly loves us even when she tells us to get off of the merry-go-round because we are playing roughly,” “Miss Shelly is always there for us.” “Miss Shelly has a loud voice and we can always hear her. She wants to keep us safe.” “Miss Shelly cares about all students.” “Miss Shelly gives us Cheetah chirps!” “She is so nice and really cares about us.”

I can't tell you how supported we all feel with having Shelly Ramirez on our campus. She is the person who checks in daily and says, "Whatever you need, I am here." From all of us at Spring Creek, we love you.

Shawne Kearney
Principal, Spring Creek