

Hialeah Gardens Middle School
2011-2012

Ms. Yohana Lopez
6th Grade Science Teacher

I am extremely honored of being nominated as "Rookie Teacher of the Year" for Hialeah Gardens Middle School. I began working in Miami-Dade County Public School in October 15, 2005 at Hialeah Middle School as a School Security Monitor. Then, on August of 2008, I was given the opportunity of becoming the Library Aid at Hialeah Gardens Middle School when Ms. Martha Montiel (at that time Principal) opened up the school. In 2009-2010 Ms. Montiel was promoted and Ms. Maritza Jimenez offered me the position of Community Involvement Specialist (CIS) for HGMS. In 2010-2011 committed to excel professionally, I became a Hialeah Gardens Middle School's Security Monitor, which gave me the possibility of completing my school assignments, which in turn I obtained my bachelor's degree and graduated with Honors. I am a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and I am currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Computer Educational Technology, CET at Florida Memorial University.

When I look back I can remember when I was at Hialeah Middle in 2008; I was chosen to be the Security Monitor of the year and I ended up being nominated between the first finalists from Region I. The committee representatives at the interview asked me: "How do you envision yourself 5 years from now?" and I answered: "Definitely in a classroom teaching Science." It has been three years since then, and I can proudly look back and say I DID IT. This school year I was patiently waiting for an opportunity to open up that would allow me to do what I have wanted to do for as long as I can remember, "teach". On September 21, of 2011 a Science teaching position was offered to me and I accepted, and on September 22, I started my journey. It has been two full months of challenges and accomplishments. My student's diversity in the classroom is one of the greatest things I enjoy the most. I have been able to help students with learning disabilities, ESE, and I have seen them grow. They have gone from struggling writers to more creative writers. My students understand basic concepts, and are speaking correctly as well as demonstrating an improvement in written, oral, and/or assessments during class instructions. I have had the opportunity of making a difference in English Language Learners, ELL students, by providing them with the appropriate and necessary tools to make a successful transition into the English language. It has been a wonderful experience to evaluate personally how an educator can mold the students and drive them to succeed academically and socially.

This nomination has gone above my expectations. I love to teach but beyond teaching, I love to educate and to make a difference in the everyday life of a child. I believe that it does not matter what your job is, if you put your maximum effort to accomplish effectively what you do, you are determined to succeed. I want to thanks my family, Ms. Jimenez, the school administration, and my colleagues, for believe in me and for their unconditionally support.

I would like to leave you with my motto:
"NEVER GIVE UP"