

PRESS RELEASE



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High School Students Teach Spanish To Elementary Peers

Coronado High School Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish students spent last week as Spanish teachers in Village Elementary fourth and fifth grade classrooms. The collaborative experience was the culmination of a 'World or Work' unit and the high school students used specific reading strategies to teach three books that corresponded with units being taught at the elementary level.

Coronado Unified School District World Language Teacher on Special Assignment Maylen Rafuls shared that, "This special high school-elementary collaboration experience grew out of our desire to facilitate connections among students of different grade levels in a shared celebration of the Spanish language. Moreover, collaboration is one of the most enjoyable and effective ways we have as teachers to grow."

Rayfuls, along with CHS AP Spanish teacher Megan Probasco, coordinated with elementary language teachers Ashley Harris and Carmen Vega.

"This has been a dream of mine for the last year! I am so grateful for the collaboration of all involved and thrilled to see this idea come to fruition," said Probasco. Six CHS students visited Village Elementary each day of the week. "We created a roster of which students went to each room and I was able to pair former Village students with their former Village teachers," she said.

"This (collaboration) has worked out really well," said Ashley Harris, who noted that it helps both the teacher and the learner so that both high school and elementary students benefited from the experience.

In response to community feedback, and in alignment with the Long Range Plan, CUSD has committed to increasing world language instruction and opportunities across all grade levels. The language initiative began last fall when the district applied for and was awarded a \$2.3 million World Language Advancement and Readiness Program grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

"This is my 17th year in the district and it is so exciting to finally have language in elementary school. The students are so engaged and absolutely love these lessons," said fifth grade teacher Crystal Garner, who had a former student teaching in her 5th grade classroom on

Thursday. "My students love Spanish class but seeing them working with high school students is wonderful," said Garner.

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PHOTOS: In a week-long collaborative experience, Coronado High School AP Spanish students taught reading lessons in Spanish to Village Elementary 4th and 5th grade students.

