



**HOMESTEAD
HIGH SCHOOL**

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Toiyonna Arias

Spanish teacher



"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."—Nelson Mandela

About Mrs. Arias:

My family is my soul. I am married to my Costa Rican ('tico') husband who I met while living in Costa Rica after college.

We have two sons both of which are bilingual and share our love of language and culture. We love to travel to Costa Rica as tourists as well as to visit family and friends.

Being bilingual has changed my life and made me more appreciative of the 'little things' that we so often take for granted.

Education:

*Master's (MA)
Secondary Education
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne:
2005*

*Bachelor's (BA)
Spanish Secondary Education
Taylor University:
1991*



Relevant Experience:

I studied Spanish in high school in order to 'be nosy'. In college, I traveled to Costa Rica for six weeks for a summer course where my love for the language, culture and people blossomed. After graduating, I returned to Costa Rica to live for approximately two years.

I have taught for 25+ years as a Spanish teacher in the United States, as an English teacher while in Costa Rica, as well as have had the privilege to act as both a translator and interpreter.

Why do I teach?

Teaching is my calling. My desire is to pass on my love of the language, culture and people to my students. "El mundo es un pañuelo" (it's small world) takes on a whole new meaning when doors are opened as a result of knowing another language. If I can be a positive influence and encourage others to see the world from a new perspective, I have succeeded!