

The Marcum-Illinois Union Elementary School District would like to recognize Mrs. Tami Ortega for the lasting impact she has made on our Marcum School Community. Tami has spent 16 years giving her best to Marcum students, families, and colleagues.

A true Wildcat is one who ROARs. Respect, Organization, Acceptance of Self and Others, and Responsibility are the heartbeat of our community, and Mrs. Ortega is an exceptional example of all four of these characteristics.

Mrs. Ortega is so respected because she shows Respect. To her, all people are important and have something valuable to offer the world. She treats students, families, and colleagues with respect by listening to them, meeting their needs, and showing gratitude for them. It is easy to return respect to someone who intentionally interacts with others in this way.

With her abilities in Organization, Mrs. Ortega has accomplished much for Marcum Students. In addition to teaching various grade levels over the years, she has always been willing to take on the extra roles that enhance students' learning and experiences. She has overseen Student Council, coordinated the Spelling Bee, planned enrichment for GATE students, directed Student Body events and fundraisers, served as a Parents' Club officer and Teachers Association representative, orchestrated fun for the staff with annual birthday club and holiday cheer, provided regular math tutoring for students in need. She has used these opportunities to take the educational experience beyond just academics.

Mrs. Ortega is Accepting of Herself and Others. She values each unique individual within our Marcum community, which is what enables her to create trusting relationships and lasting bonds with her students. Regardless of strengths, weaknesses, or interests, she gets to know individuals for who they are, and never lets them forget that they are important and loved.

Ultimately, she is Responsible. Mrs. Ortega puts her best effort towards each and every task at hand, which has resulted in an everlasting positive impact on the Marcum community. She sets high expectations for herself and for her students, resulting in learning and personal growth that never ceases.

Tami Ortega is a true Wildcat. Her ROAR will continue to echo throughout the community that will miss her presence dearly. We are forever grateful for her dedication and the lasting impact she has had on the lives of so many, and we wish her the same joy she has found with us in her new adventure!