

March 14, 2023

Dear 2023-2024 Language Assistant,

Congratulations on your placement with CEIP Al-Ándalus! Rest assured, you are going to love it. Al-Ándalus is a tight-knit community that welcomes anyone and everyone.

The bilingual program coordinator, Blanca Nieto, goes above and beyond to help the auxiliar get acclimated to the Al-Ándalus family. One week before my job began, Blanca invited me to tour the campus and sat down with me to answer all my questions. The students and staff greeted me with welcome banners, smiles, and enthusiastic introductions. The school's energy and charm exceeded my hopes and expectations, not only on that first day but throughout the school year.

My favorite part of working at Al-Ándalus was the people, hands down. The students are eager to learn and their energy is contagious. Staff are warm, friendly, and happy to go out of their way to share tips and support each other. I started the year off with no prior teaching experience, but the staff brought me up to speed in no time.

To give you a better idea of what you have to look forward to, I'll share with you a few of my favorite memories from my time at Al-Ándalus:

- Playing Jeopardy, bingo, and Baamboozle with the students (they get so competitive, it can feel like a Betis vs. Sevilla game!)
- Accompanying the students on a field trip to the Sevilla-based factory of Inés Rosales
- Joining the sixth-graders on their orientation day at the local high school
- Celebrating holidays such as Halloween (they love it if you wear a costume), Christmas, and Easter
- Receiving countless pictures, notes, trading cards, and other little gifts from the students
- Going to the garden (huerto) with students to help them harvest fruits and veggies

Looking back on the last year, I wouldn't change a thing. The warm welcome that I received from the Al-Ándalus family eased my initial nerves and helped fuel my personal and professional growth over the course of the year. I'm confident that the same will happen for you.

Good luck and have fun!

Sincerely,

Katie Miller

Katiemiller1998@gmail.com