



IDRA Valued Youth Partnership  
**Reflection Contest**  
**Winning Entries**  
**2023-24**



# Congratulations to our 2024 Reflection Contest Winners!



## High School First Place **MONSERRAT GARCÍA**

9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS  
 “Este programa realmente me ha dado fuerza. También he visto cómo los niños no se dan por vencidos por lo que quieren hacer o aprender... Así es como veo las cosas. Si un niño no renuncia a lo que quiere lograr, yo tampoco debería renunciar.”

“This program has really given me strength. I have also seen how children do not give up for what they want to do or learn... Now that’s how I see things. If a child doesn’t give up on what he wants to achieve, I shouldn’t give up either.”



## High School Second Place **ROSLYNNE ORTÍZ**

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS



## High School Third Place (Tie) **MICHELLE VILLEGAS**

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS  
 “Since I became a tutor I know what it is to feel proud  
 María got a 100 on her Sirius assignment  
 Alex has no missing assignments  
 Jordan started answering questions in class

Since I became a tutor  
 My days became better  
 My kids give me a hug every time I walk in the classroom”



## High School Third Place (Tie) **ALONDRA HOLGUÍN**

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL • ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS  
 “Tutoring, to me, means to change someone for the better. As a child who has struggled with all the subjects, even now, I’m so glad I got a tutee...”

I’ve seen so much progress in these kids... I can’t say this enough, but I am so proud of them, so incredibly proud... I get excited just to come to school. I would always hate coming, but I always tell myself now I can go, and I can do it.”



## Middle School First Place **SERENA L. SÁNCHEZ**

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ALAN B. SHEPARD MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

“I’ve learned to tailor my approach, to each unique mind, To help them unlock their potential and leave their doubts behind. I’ve celebrated victories, both big and small, And cheered on progress, no matter how slow or tall.

For every student, a journey so unique and true, I’m honored to be a part of it and help them see it through. “Since I became a tutor, my heart has grown wide, With love and compassion, for each student inside. I’ll keep on guiding, supporting and cheering them on, For the joy of learning is a journey that’s never done.”



## Middle School Second Place **NATHAN GÓMEZ**

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ABRAHAM DWIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

“There have been days where I think to myself, ‘This is too hard.’ But I know that this program isn’t just about teaching little children at the elementary school, it is about helping us evolve as people and get ready for the future. By being in this

By being in this program, I have seen so much growth and improvement in myself, and I am very grateful for having the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program!”



## Middle School Third Place **SHANNELL GARCÍA**

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ABRAHAM DWIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

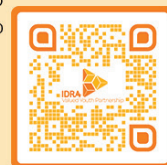
“Seeing these students grow and change how they do their work and seeing them use their strategies to accomplish tasks makes me happy and feel a sense of accomplishment. I’m so proud watching them succeed and do great things. The IDRA Valued Youth Partnership has taught me how to be a leader and to be responsible. I don’t have enough words to describe the bond I have with my tutees. This program has helped me to grow into the person I want to be, and I’m very grateful to be a tutor.”

### Middle School Honorable Mention

**ARIEL MORONES** – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ALAN B. SHEPARD MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO  
**LILIANA PRESAS** – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ROBERT C. ZAMORA MIDDLE SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO

### Elementary Reflection Winners

**First Place: VIVIANNA CABALLERO** – 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • JUDSON ISD • SAN ANTONIO  
**Second Place: JORDYN MORRIS** – 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • JUDSON ISD • SAN ANTONIO  
**Third Place: NADIA BARRIENTEZ** – 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • JUDSON ISD • SAN ANTONIO



See the full essays, poems and artwork online!



## Monserrat Garcia

9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL,  
ODESSA, TEXAS

**Valued Youth Partnership High School First Place Winner**

### Para Mi, ¿Como Es Ser Tutor?

Para mí, tener la oportunidad de ser tutor de niños me ha ayudado mucho en mi forma de pensar y ver las cosas. Ver cómo piensan de una manera tan singular y sin malicia me llena de felicidad por la sinceridad y nobleza que tienen.

Ser tutor me ha ayudado a ser más paciente con la gente y a entender que no todos pensamos de la misma manera. Todos procesamos las cosas a nuestro propio ritmo. No todos podemos tener la misma capacidad de entender un tema al mismo ritmo. Algunas personas necesitan más tiempo para entender, y otras pueden aprender más fácilmente.

La primera vez que fui al aula donde iba a ser tutora, me sentí muy nerviosa, pero a la vez una emoción intensa. Siempre me han gustado los niños, y me hace feliz pasar tiempo con ellos. También es una conversación diferente a la que estoy acostumbrada a tener con mis amigos o adultos. Mis alumnos aún no han llegado a esa etapa de preocuparse tanto por el trabajo o las cosas de los adultos. Por eso me gusta hablar con ellos, porque sus preocupaciones de niños no se vuelven tan preocupantes para nosotros que somos mayores que ellos. Pero para ellos, es como si un juguete se perdiera y el mundo se fuera a acabar.

También me da la sensación de pensar que alguna vez estuve en esa etapa. También lloré y pensé que mi mundo se iba a acabar porque mi juguete favorito se había perdido. Ahora me doy cuenta de que en la vida habrá cosas que tendremos que enfrentar que serán más difíciles. Pero ellos, como niños, aún no están en esa etapa.

Cuando estoy con mis alumnos, intento hacerles entender que tienen que aprovechar y disfrutar de la etapa en la que están viviendo ahora mismo, donde no hay tantas preocupaciones. Cuando

sean mayores, querrán retroceder en el tiempo y volver a ser pequeños. La gente solía decirme esto, y realmente no les creía. Pero ahora que soy mayor, realmente quiero volver a la época en que era más joven. A pesar de que no soy adulta, todavía tengo mucho que vivir y disfrutar y también llorar tal vez.

En el salón de clases, donde ahora estamos los tutores llenando tareas y haciendo varias cosas, es cuando me doy cuenta de que realmente nos gusta ayudar a los niños. Estamos haciendo un esfuerzo por mejorar nuestras calificaciones para poder continuar en este programa. Esta no es una tarea fácil, porque hay personas a las que no les gusta la escuela y no quieren asistir o hacer el trabajo. Pero incluso si no queremos hacerlo, lo hacemos para poder seguir ayudando a nuestros estudiantes y poder seguir viéndolos. La única razón por la que vamos a clases y hacemos el trabajo y mantenemos bien nuestras calificaciones, es para poder seguir guiándolos a hacer las cosas bien. Cuando no entienden algo, estamos ahí para ayudarles

Nosotros como tutores, o al menos en mi experiencia, podemos tener una conexión con nuestros pequeños alumnos porque ya pasamos por esa experiencia y seguimos pasando por ella, porque seguimos siendo estudiantes. Es por eso por lo que podemos tener esa conexión. Cuando era pequeña, tuve una maestra con la que sentí una conexión tan hermosa. Me gustaba ir al jardín de infantes porque me gustaba esa maestra y quería aprender. Me gustó la forma en que nos enseñó y nos explicó las cosas. Creo que siempre recordaré a mi maestra, a quien llegué a querer mucho y todavía lo hago.

Ahora quiero ser ese tutor para mis alumnos. Quiero que se sientan libres de hacer cualquier pregunta que tengan y que les guste la forma en que les enseñó. Cuando crezcan, quiero que

me recuerden como una buena maestra y que tuvieron una buena experiencia conmigo. Cuando alguien les pregunta si tuvieron un maestro favorito cuando eran pequeños, quiero que piensen en mí o al menos recuerden hermosas experiencias conmigo. Quiero ser ese tutor para mis alumnos.

Este programa me ha ayudado mucho, y no solo a mí, sino también a los demás tutores que quieren dar una bonita experiencia a los niños, ya que también nos ha enseñado a valorar y respetar otras normas. Porque ahora que estamos en la escuela secundaria, muchas cosas son muy diferentes que realmente no quiero que los pequeños vean.

Esta es también la razón por la que somos tutores, para hablar con ellos si quieren hablar, darles consejos y hacerles entender que en la vida siempre habrá momentos buenos y malos. Es por esto por lo que debemos disfrutar de todas nuestras etapas y más aún de aquellos que son pequeños ahora mismo y que ríen y sonríen mucho.

Además de ayudarme educativamente, ser tutora también me ha ayudado en mi vida diaria, en

### **For Me, What Is It Like to Be a Tutor?**

For me, having the opportunity to be a tutor for children has helped me a lot in my way of thinking and seeing things. Seeing how they think in such a unique way and without malice fills me with happiness about the sincerity and nobility they have.

Being a tutor has helped me to be more patient with people and to understand that we do not all think the same way. We all process things in our own time. We cannot all have the same ability to understand a topic at the same pace. Some people need more time to understand, and others can learn more easily.

The first time I went to the classroom where I was going to be a tutor, I felt very nervous but at the same time an intense emotion. I have always liked children, and it makes me happy to spend time with them. It is also a different conversation than what I am used to having with my friends or

mi vida personal, ya que he visto niños con pensamientos tan limpios y puros, que también me han ayudado a pensar de una manera más positiva. No debería estar preocupado por un trabajo o una cosa todo el día. Porque puedo ver a niños que se caen o se les escapa algo y se ponen a llorar. Después de un minuto, ya están sonriendo y riendo a carcajadas.

Este programa realmente me ha dado fuerza. También he visto cómo los niños no se dan por vencidos por lo que quieren hacer o aprender, lo que para mí quizás no sea algo difícil, pero para ellos sí lo es. Así es como veo las cosas. Si un niño no renuncia a lo que quiere lograr, yo tampoco debería renunciar. Y, aunque en ese momento lo veo como el peor problema o como si se me fuera a acabar el mundo, en algún momento voy a salir de ahí y voy a luchar para poder conseguir lo que quiero.

Todavía no estoy segura de si me voy a dedicar a esto, pero sí estoy segura de que, si este va a ser mi futuro trabajo, trabajaré muy bien para que mis futuros alumnos tengan una buena experiencia, al igual que yo tuve una bonita experiencia con mi maestra de jardín de infantes.

adults. My tutees have not yet reached that stage of worrying so much about work or adult things. That is why I like to talk to them because their worries as children don't become so worrisome for us who are older than them. But for them, it's as if a toy is lost and the world is going to end.

It also gives me a feeling to think that I was once in that stage. I also cried and thought my world was going to end because my favorite toy had been lost. Now I realize that in life there will be things we have to face that will be more difficult. But they, as children, are not yet in that stage.

When I'm with my tutees, I try to make them understand they need to take advantage and enjoy the stage in which they are living right now, where there are not so many worries. When they are older, they will want to turn back time and be small again. People used to tell me this, and I really didn't believe them. But now that I'm older,

I really want to go back to the time when I was younger. Even though I'm not that old, I still have a lot to live and enjoy and also cry maybe.

In the classroom, where we are now the tutors filling out assignments and doing various things, that's when I realize we really like to help the children. We are making an effort to improve our grades to be able to continue in this program. This is not an easy task, because there are people who don't like school and don't want to attend or do the work. But even if we don't want to do it, we do it so we can continue to help our students and we can continue to see them. The only reason we go to classes and do work and maintain our grades well, is to be able to continue guiding them to do things well. When they do not understand something, we are there to help them.

We as tutors, or at least in my experience, can have a connection with our little students because we already went through that experience and we continue to go through it, because we are still students. That's why we get to have that connection. When I was little, I had a teacher with whom I felt such a beautiful connection. I liked going to kindergarten because I liked that teacher and I wanted to learn. I liked the way she taught us and explained things to us. I think I will always remember my teacher who I came to love very much and still do.

Now I want to be that tutor for my students. I want them to feel free to ask any questions they have and for them to like the way I taught them. When they grow up, I want them to remember me as a good teacher and that they had a good experience with me. When someone asks them if they had a favorite teacher when they were little, I want them to think about me or at least remember beautiful experiences with me. I want to be that tutor for my students.

This program has helped me a lot, and not only me, but also the other tutors who want to give a nice experience to the children, since it has also taught us to value and respect other rules. Because now that we are in high school, many things are very different that I really do not want the little ones to see.

This is also the reason we are tutors, to talk to them if they want to talk, give them advice, and make them understand that in life, there will always be good and bad moments. This is why we must enjoy all our stages and even more so those who are small right now and who laugh and smile a lot.

Besides helping me educationally, being a tutor has also helped me in my daily life, in my personal life, since I have seen children with such clean and pure thoughts, which have also helped me to think in a more positive way. I should not be worried about a job or a thing all day. Because I get to see children who fall or they miss something and start crying. After a minute, they are already smiling and laughing aloud.

This program has really given me strength. I have also seen how children do not give up for what they want to do or learn, which for me is perhaps not something difficult, but for them it is. Now that's how I see things. If a child doesn't give up on what he wants to achieve, I shouldn't give up either. I see that, although at the moment I see it as the worst problem or as if my world is going to end, at some point, I'm going to get out of there and I'm going to fight to be able to achieve what I want.

I'm still not sure if I'm going to dedicate myself to this, but I'm sure that, if this will be my future job, I'll work very well so that my future students have a good experience, just like I had a nice experience with my kindergarten teacher.



**IDRA**  
Valued Youth Partnership



## Roslyne Ortíz

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL,  
ODESSA, TEXAS

**Valued Youth  
Partnership High  
School Second  
Place Winner**



## Michelle Villegas

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL,  
ODESSA, TEXAS

**Valued Youth  
Partnership High  
School Third  
Place Winner**

### Since I became a tutor

Since I became a tutor  
My days became better  
My kids give me a hug every time I walk in the classroom  
My kids give me a hug every time I leave the classroom

Since I became a tutor  
I got three new little friends\*  
María  
Jordan  
Alex

Since I became a tutor  
I know what it is to have recess taken away  
“Don’t let her take all the letters away guys.”  
“Be quiet I wanna have recess today.”

Since I became a tutor  
I have got to test out different learning types  
Jordan needs to write out what he’s thinking on the side of the text to  
understand  
María needs someone to listen to her read and stay on the right line  
Alex needs someone to read to him and stay focused

Since I became a tutor  
I have learned to read fourth graders handwriting  
María’s handwriting is the best (but don’t tell the other two that)

Since I became a tutor  
I have had silly, but important conversations with my little friends  
María loves cheerleading and does it in a club  
Jordan loves five nights at Freddy’s and counted down with me the days until  
the new movie of it came out  
Alex loves anything Marvel, his mouse for his computer is Iron Man

Since I became a tutor  
I realized that even if I’m having a bad day, I can’t bring that into my kids’  
class  
Smile, breathe, focus  
Make sure none of the kids have anything missing  
Help them with what they’re doing  
Ask them about their day and engage in conversation with them  
Never let your smile drop

Since I became a tutor  
I have had three new names to add to my prayers  
I pray for María's cheerleading competition tomorrow  
I pray for Alex's home  
I pray for Jordan to turn in all his assignments

Since I became a tutor  
My world opened up through a fourth grader's eyes  
Instead of stressing about my Algebra test  
I stress about how much time we'll have for recess

Since I became a tutor  
My three little friends have taught me something  
Stop stressing like an adult  
And just get through the day like a person  
Because at the end of the day, that's all I am

Since I became a tutor  
I know what it is to feel proud  
María got a 100 on her Sirius assignment  
Alex has no missing assignments  
Jordan started answering questions in class

Since I became a tutor  
My days became better  
My kids give me a hug every time I walk in the classroom  
My kids give me a hug every time I leave the classroom

Since I became a tutor  
My world got brighter

*\* Tutee names changed for privacy*





## Alondra Holguín

11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ODESSA HIGH SCHOOL,  
ODESSA, TEXAS

### Valued Youth Partnership High School Third Place Winner

#### IDRA Valued Youth Partnership

IDRA VYP has changed me as a student. It changed the way I think about my future, the way I talk to people, etc. I have struggled so much for the past couple years of high school, and I never had a class that actually brings me so much joy.

When I met Ms. Granado, I knew she was going to be the teacher I could look up to, and she is. She brings so much joy even when I'm having so many hard days. That has completely changed me.

Every time someone mentions IDRA, I think about all the joy it has brought to me, and how excited I get just to go to school because I get to see my teacher and my little tutees. I think about how I teach little kids. I helped them learn how to add, subtract, multiply, etc., and I did that. Who knows what else I can do!

I absolutely love how I can change someone's life just by teaching them, laughing with them, and making them feel better. It brings me so much joy. I would definitely recommend it to anyone I know, and I do because these kids are so amazing and so smart.

Tutoring can be a bit hard sometimes because there's things I didn't learn as a kid, but I also learn new things even as a junior. I get surprised at how much just a first grader learns. It also helps me learn with them. It's funny, they know more than me. Sometimes they even teach me, and that's okay too. It makes me realize they do know how

to do things without my help, and it makes me so proud of them. My little tutees are so amazing and smart. I really wish I could teach them again for my last year next year.

Tutoring, to me, means to change someone for the better. As a child who has struggled with all the subjects, even now, I'm so glad I got a tutee. It helped me understand everything so easily, and they explained it way better than an actual class. Ever since I started tutoring, I've seen so much progress in these kids. I can see how fast they finish their work now even without my help. When I get there, they're already halfway done. I can't say this enough, but I am so proud of them, so incredibly proud.

Ever since I became a tutor, I have done all my work in class. There are times I don't even get homework. I get excited just to come to school. I would always hate coming, but I always tell myself now I can go, and I can do it. I tell myself I have to help my little tutees. Tutors can't leave them alone. I love my classes now. For you to be able to go to trips, do activities, and stay in this program, you have to pass your own classes. My teacher said, "How are you going to teach kids when you're not even passing your classes?" It might sound harsh, but she's absolutely right. And that has stuck to me, because now that I'm passing my classes, I get to do fun activities. I love it. I love this program, my teacher, and my little tutees. I recommend this class to everyone.



## Serena L. Sánchez

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ALAN B. SHEPARD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL,  
SAN ANTONIO

**Valued Youth  
Partnership  
Middle School  
First Place  
Winner**

### The thoughts of a Valued Youth tutor...

Since I became a tutor, I've seen it all,  
From struggling students to triumphant calls.  
I've watched them grow, from doubt to delight,  
As understanding blooms and confidence takes flight.  
With every session, a new story unfolds,  
Of fears faced, and challenges told.  
I've witnessed tears, and frustration too,  
But also the joy, when concepts click anew.  
I've learned to listen, to guide and to share,  
To help them find their own path, without a single care.  
I've seen the light bulb moments, the "aha!"s so bright,  
When understanding dawns, and everything feels just right.  
Since I became a tutor, I've grown as well,  
My patience and empathy have helped me to excel.  
I've learned to tailor my approach, to each unique mind,  
To help them unlock their potential and leave their doubts behind.  
I've celebrated victories, both big and small,  
And cheered on progress, no matter how slow or tall.  
For every student, a journey so unique and true,  
I'm honored to be a part of it and help them see it through.  
Since I became a tutor, my heart has grown wide,  
With love and compassion, for each student inside.  
I'll keep on guiding, supporting and cheering them on,  
For the joy of learning is a journey that's never done.  
I'm thankful to have been chosen for this opportunity because throughout  
the year, I learned to love the kids I teach.  
Thank you IDRA Valued Youth Partnership for giving me this opportunity!



## Nathan Gómez

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
DWIGHT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL,  
SAN ANTONIO

### Valued Youth Partnership Middle School Second Place Winner

#### How I Have Grown

My name is Nathan Gómez and I am an eighth grader at Dwight Middle School. I joined this program because I knew that it would help me be more responsible and make better decisions. The IDRA Valued Youth Partnership has encouraged me to work on myself more and act more mature. I have started to work harder in my classes and be more responsible for my actions. This program has shown me a lot of discipline and how to really handle things myself and show my tutees how to be respectful to one another.

When I first started this program, I was scared because I had no experience in teaching or anything to do with teaching. In my perspective I didn't think I fit the role of being a tutor because I didn't take anything seriously and I would see everything as a joke. I was just a normal troublemaking kid, and those troublemaking actions weren't going to cut it anymore, especially in front of little kids and professionals.

I knew I needed to grow up, and that's exactly what I did. I had my first interaction with my tutees, and it went amazing, and surprisingly I did better than I thought. Slowly I started learning how to communicate better and how to teach my tutees. I have had many good and difficult experiences with them. I have had to send them back to their desk for not behaving appropriately, but I have also been able to reward them for being on their best behavior.

There have been days where I think to myself, "This is too hard." But I know that this program isn't just about teaching little children at the elementary school, it is about helping us evolve as people and get ready for the future. By being in this program, I have seen so much growth and improvement in myself, and I am very grateful for having the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program!



## Shannell García

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
DWIGHT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL,  
SAN ANTONIO

Valued Youth  
Partnership  
Middle School  
Third Place  
Winner

### How Tutoring Has Helped Me

Tutoring has helped me because I have learned a lot from it. In the start, I was only in the IDRA Valued Youth Partnership for the money, but I have changed my way of seeing this program. I used to think this program would teach me nothing, but the truth is it has changed me as a person.

I was greedy, and I didn't like kids. Now I like seeing my tutees and helping them. I like going to the elementary school and having the kids say "Hi" to me, and seeing their faces light up when I walk into the room. I found myself enjoying helping them all even if they aren't in the tutee group, and seeing these kids makes me smile more than ever. Tutoring has helped me learn about topics I don't remember, especially when talking with the kids about the things they are learning.

I have grown connections with my tutees Emily and Sade,\* and they look up to me and have helped me come out of my shell. In a specific way Emily has helped me a lot. And I've helped her do things she was really struggling with, like learning how to multiply or how to do equations on her own and learning how to depend on herself for help. I've helped her learn how to write neatly and how to write her name in cursive.

It might not be the most important thing to learn, but it's important to me as it's a core memory for me. Seeing her complete things and seeing her pass tests, or even seeing her get a good grade makes me feel happy and proud. I don't think

about me when she gets a good grade, I think about how it makes her feel about herself. Having her be happy or be proud of herself makes me happy and feel proud of her for everything she's done. I might not say it enough, but I'm very proud of her and she makes a difference in my life all the time.

Sade is very funny, energetic and very smart. Sade learns new topics easily, but I am still able to help her learn certain skills and content. Sometimes, she knows how to solve problems and make people around her happy and laugh. I've helped her to solve math problems and to understand how to be more open about how she feels. Seeing her sad or disappointed about her work makes me hurt since she's such a hard-working kid. She makes core memories for me every day whether it's telling her to focus or giving her a boost of confidence in her to get a good grade. She's a very special person to me and everyone around her.

Seeing these students grow and change how they do their work and seeing them use their strategies to accomplish tasks makes me happy and feel a sense of accomplishment. I'm so proud watching them succeed and do great things. The IDRA Valued Youth Partnership has taught me how to be a leader and to be responsible. I don't have enough words to describe the bond I have with my tutees. This program has helped me to grow into the person I want to be, and I'm very grateful to be a tutor.

*\*Tutor names changed for privacy.*



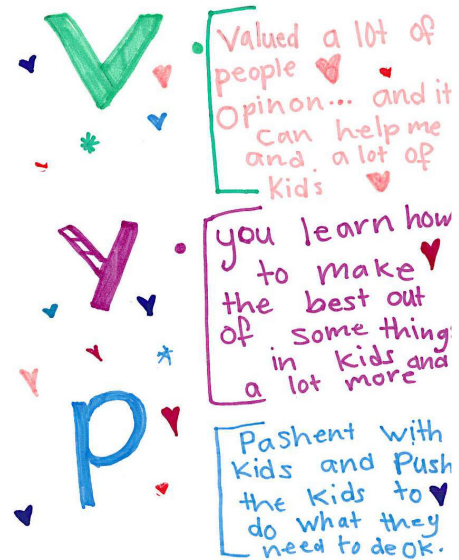
## VYP Elementary Reflection Winners

4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS AT FRANZ LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, JUDSON ISD, TEXAS

**First Place**  
**Vivianna Caballero**



**Second Place**  
**Jordyn Morris**



**Third Place**  
**Nadia Barrientez**



## Middle School Honorable Mentions



**Ariel Morones**

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, ALAN B. SHEPARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOUTH SAN ANTONIO ISD, TEXAS

“Ever since I started tutoring it has influenced my social skills, so they are way better now. I have to speak more than usual when talking to these students... This great program gave me the chance to express myself, learn, grow, and stay, having a big impact on me.”



**Liliana Presas**

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, ROBERT C. ZAMORA MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOUTH SAN ANTONIO ISD, TEXAS

“During the process of tutoring the tutees, they were my constant reminder to be good in school. I have to be a good role model so they can pay it forward to younger grade levels below them. I love seeing the faces of the tutees when I come to see them.”



**The IDRA Valued Youth Partnership is a research-based, internationally-recognized dropout prevention program that has kept 98% of its tutors in school.**

The Valued Youth Partnership, created by IDRA, is an internationally-recognized, cross-age tutoring program with an unusual twist. This dropout prevention program works by identifying junior high and high school students in at-risk situations and enlisting them as tutors for elementary school youngsters who are also struggling in school. Given this role of personal and academic responsibility, the Valued Youth tutors learn self-discipline and develop self-esteem. Schools shift to the philosophy and practices of valuing students considered at-risk. Results show that tutors stay in school, have increased academic performance, improved school attendance and advanced to higher education.

Learn more at  
[www.idra.org/valued-youth](http://www.idra.org/valued-youth)



Celina Moreno, J.D., President & CEO  
5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101 • San Antonio, Texas 78228  
210.444.1710 • [www.IDRA.org](http://www.IDRA.org) • [www.idraseen.org](http://www.idraseen.org)