

Where Are They Now?

Ivan Garcia: Former DLL Student Shares Joy of Reading and Writing

From struggling reader to reading star, Ivan Garcia has continued to make academic progress in both English and Spanish subjects.

A student in the bilingual program at Townewest Elementary in Fort Bend (Texas) ISD since kindergarten, Ivan began his Descubriendo la Lectura (DLL) lessons in first grade, completing his intervention in just 15 weeks.

His DLL teacher, Yolanda Garcia, remembers when Ivan took the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) for the first time in third grade and received the highest possible score in both reading and writing. In fourth grade, he made the transition to STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) and last year scored Advanced in both reading and math and Satisfactory in writing.



Ivan often recounts some of the events of the story he is currently reading to his former DLL teacher, who points out the twinkle in his eye as he shares his excitement. He also enjoys writing stories and has shared poems he has written. Other teachers



have observed Ivan completely immersed in the book he is reading; not putting it down until he has finished it.

“He is polite, considerate, attentive, and concerned about doing his best on every assignment,” said Ivan’s current language arts teacher, Kristi Person.

Ivan has learned to read and now reads to learn, never complaining about an assignment given in either reading or writing. Now a sixth grader, he also enjoys playing clarinet in the school band and playing soccer on a community team.

“Ivan is a sincere student who is very keen to learn and strives to do his best all the time. It is a pleasure to have him in my interdisciplinary studies class this year,” said another current teacher, Nasren El Baz.

“You can’t help but feel a great sense of pride for his accomplishments and achievements in both English and Spanish subjects,” his first-grade DLL teacher said. “I can hardly wait to see how he does in his future academic endeavors.”

DLL lessons helped Ivan overcome reading and writing difficulties in first grade (above). The sixth grader (left) continues to make academic progress throughout elementary school.