



## MAESTRA CRUZ – KINDER, D103

**When were you born?** October 5, 1992

**Where did you grow up?** I was born and raised in San Francisco.  
I am a San Francisco native.

**What is something unique about you?** Every October I love to rewatch all the Halloweentown movies.

**Do you have a funny story about yourself when you were a kid?** When I was in Kindergarten I was running around my house and bumped into an old sewing machine. I broke my wrist. I had to wear a cast.

**What does your family/heritage look like?** I am Mexican and Salvadorian.

**Do you have siblings?** I am an only child.

**Do you have any pets?** I do not have any pets, but during the start of the pandemic I was staying in Hillsborough where there are 4 dogs. One black lab and 3 Frenchies.

**Do you have any hobbies?** I enjoy going on walks or hikes. I love spending time with my friends and family.

**Favorite musician/band:** J Balvin and Bad Bunny, anything with Reggaeton.



**Favorite color:** Red.

**Favorite holiday:** Christmas. Growing up I didn't get to celebrate as much, but now as an adult I enjoy celebrating.

**Favorite food:** Any Latin American food, except seafood.

**Favorite ice cream flavor:** Vanilla Bean. I also love popsicles.

**Favorite candy:** I love Twix, or any Milk chocolate candy bars.

**What's the most interesting food you've tasted?** Crickets. I am often very reserved when it comes to trying new things.

**What is the best place you've visited and why?** I love Oaxaca. My family is from a small town in Oaxaca and I enjoyed Oaxaca City when I was able to visit a couple of years ago.

**What are you most proud of?** I am proud to be a teacher in the same school district that raised me and helped me become the person I am today. I am proud of being a Bilingual Latina Woman.

**Why did you become a teacher / why do you like teaching?** I became a teacher because I love to work with kids. I love watching them learn new things and have so many questions about the world around them.

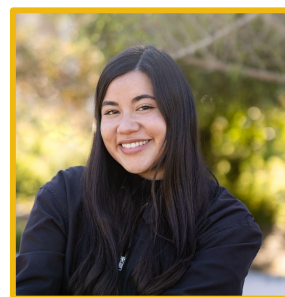
**What's the hardest part of being a teacher?** The hardest part of being a teacher is the system. The system is not always made to fit the needs of each child's unique needs.

**What's the most fun?** Watching the students have that "aha" moment. When it all comes together and seeing their own growth through the year.

**What's your favorite thing about being part of Dolores Huerta Elementary?** I love our Community of parents. All the support and words of encouragement we receive from families. We are truly blessed to have such amazing families.



## MAESTRA VALERIA – KINDER, D102



**Where were you born?** I was born on April 14, 1995, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Honduras until I moved to the U.S. in 2011!

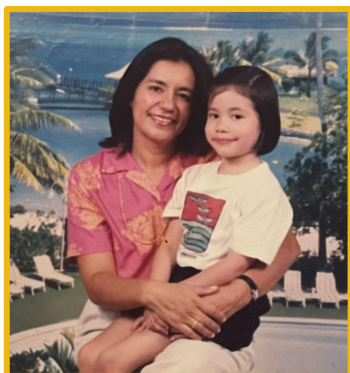
**What is something unique about you?** I am trilingual: I can speak English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**Do you have a funny story about yourself when you were a kid?** When I was in Kindergarten, I was very serious about opening a restaurant at my house and it was going to be called "La Casa Rosada" (The pink house). I assigned everyone in my family a role in the restaurant, and I was of course the manager! I even made a sign with a whole menu (in drawings) including elotes, baleadas, pupusas, and of course pan dulce and coffee!

**What does your family/heritage look like?** I was born and raised in Honduras and I am also Salvadoran—my parents are both Salvadoreños and I love both of my countries/cultures!

**Do you have siblings?** I have 4 big sisters! I am the "baby."

**Do you have any pets?** A kitten named Freddie Mercury



**Do you have any hobbies?** I love remaking my favorite childhood foods. I usually video call my mom and she walks me through it!

**Favorite singer:** Natalia Lafourcade

**Favorite color:** Yellow

**Favorite holiday:** Christmas

**Favorite food:** I will eat anything!

**Favorite ice cream:** Chocolate and coffee/mocha

**Favorite snack:** Chips are my weakness!



**What is the best place you've visited and why?** Rio de Janeiro because it was so vibrant and welcoming. It has some of the most beautiful sights and everyone was wonderful!

**What are you most proud of?** I am most proud of my family.

**Why did you become a teacher / why do you like teaching?**

I have loved teaching since I was little! I used to set up all my stuffies and pretend to be a teacher. I think teaching is very special because you never stop learning, especially from children who have so many important lessons to teach us about patience, compassion, and resilience.

**What's the hardest part of being a teacher?** The hardest part about teaching is that there is never enough time to do everything on our to-do list! It feels like there aren't enough hours in the day.

**What's the most fun?** The most fun is hearing all the funny stories! I could write a book of all the hilarious things students say!



**What's your favorite thing about being part of Dolores Huerta Elementary?** My favorite part about being at Dolores Huerta is the relationships we get to build with our families. I feel so lucky to still be connected to former students and their families, and it feels like we are growing together



## MAESTRA BOVIS – KINDER, D101



**Where were you born?** Martinez California

**Where did you grow up?** Miami, Florida

**What is something unique about you?** I was born on Friday the 13th

**Do you have a funny story about yourself when you were a kid?** I was known as the jokester in my family. One of my hijinx was to regularly pull pants down when they were doing everyday household chores :) To this day my family gets nervous if I'm around,

**What does your family/heritage look like?** My family is a strong matriarchal family from Nicaragua.

**Do you have siblings?** Oh gosh yes, I am the oldest of 6 kids, 5 of us girls and the last one was a boy.

**Do you have any pets?** Sure do! I have Luna who's a 12lb Chihuahua and who's been with me for 14 years now. I also have a special needs chihuahua who's under 5 lbs, he's been part of our family for 9 yrs.

**Do you have any hobbies?** When I'm not pregnant, I love backpacking and rock climbing with my partner. I also love love love to bake.



**Favorite artists:** Musicians Joy Division, The Smiths, The Cure, Pulp, Bauhaus. In recent years I've really gotten into La Santa Cecilia, Las Cafeteras, Chicano Batman.

**Favorite color:** Black and Red

**Favorite holiday:** Dia de los Muertos closely followed by Christmas

**Favorite food:** I really love Ramen.

**Favorite ice cream:** Caramel Praline

**Favorite candy:** Sour gummies of any kind



**What's the most interesting food you've tasted?** I will try any food I've had: all sorts of goodies, frogs, alligators, armadillo, crickets, sweetbreads, blood sausage, haggis ...

**What is the best place you've visited and why?** Isla de Ometepe in Nicaragua, For starters in my motherland, but also realizing the beauty of nature in its pristine state is breathtaking.

**What are you most proud of?** Nayeli, she's everything I've ever wanted to be. She had all the best qualities of her father and I combined into one tiny little human.

**Why did you become a teacher / why do you like teaching?** I love teaching because the world is so new through the eyes of young curious children. They are ready and eager to take in all new information, the growth is mind blowing. I became a teacher because I wanted students to see positive self reflections of themselves. I never had that.

**What's the hardest part of being a teacher?** Stepping away, we become part of the family. Some stories bring joy, and some stories remind us of our blessings. You can't help but feel the impact of all their experiences.

**What's the most fun?** Kindergarten is so much fun, any little thing can become the greatest thing ever. On the daily I hear chants "we want to learn." It's such an inspiration for me to show up even harder every day.

**What's your favorite thing about being part of Dolores Huerta Elementary?** I love our community, our families are extra special. Everyone bringing their gifts to our community, but I also love our teachers. I have been blessed to be part of two amazing grade level teams. Each team welcomed me and supported my learning and growing as an educator. It's truly a gift and blessing for me. We have some wonderful talented educators who give it their 110% to our students.