Laura Cerniglia

SPANISH EDUCATOR / CURRICULUM LEADER / TEACHER TRAINER

Kenner, Louisiana (504) 655-0764 alcerniglia@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Native Spanish-speaking educator with more than 20 years of experience across early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school settings. An experienced curriculum leader with a background in Acquisition-Driven Instruction, comprehensible input, Montessori education, ESL, and teacher development. Committed to meaningful language learning, cultural understanding, and the growth of the whole child.

20+ YEARS TEACHING	**24** HOURS OF ADI TRAINING LED	**PK-12** CURRICULUM EXPERIENCE

Areas of Expertise

Acquisition-Driven Instruction · Comprehensible Input & Storytelling · Spanish Curriculum Design · Teacher Professional Learning · Montessori Education · ESL Programs · Cultural Engagement

Recent Teaching Experience

- **Academy of the Sacred Heart | New Orleans, LA** — AUG 2026 - PRESENT

  Middle School Spanish Teacher, Grades 5 & 6

  Teach through comprehensible input, storytelling, movement, gestures, and culturally rich learning experiences. Design novice reading, writing, and communication activities that build confidence and meaningful language use.

- **Mount Carmel Academy | New Orleans, LA** — AUG 2025 - JUL 2026

  High School Spanish Teacher; World Language Curriculum Coordinator

  Taught high school Spanish; supported world language curriculum coordination, instructional planning, and curriculum development.

- **Metairie Park Country Day School | Metairie, LA** — AUG 2018 - JUL 2025

  Lower School Spanish Teacher

  Designed language-acquisition experiences for younger learners, emphasizing engagement, foundational communication, and cultural understanding.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe students learn best when they feel known, supported, and challenged. My instruction combines strong academics with purposeful communication, cultural understanding, reflection, and respect for others.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

Earlier Teaching & School Experience

- **St. Anthony of Padua | New Orleans, LA** — AUG 2017 - 2018
  Prekindergarten Teacher
  Supported early childhood learning in a developmentally appropriate classroom.
- **InspireNOLA Charter Schools | New Orleans, LA** — AUG 2016 - 2017
  ESL Coordinator
  Managed an ESL program for multilingual students, educators, and families; helped Spanish-speaking students and parents navigate the New Orleans public school system.
- **St. Louis King of France | Metairie, LA** — AUG 2010 - 2016
  Spanish Teacher
  Delivered Spanish instruction and supported developing cultural understanding.
- **Color Minds Montessori | Costa Rica** — FEB 2007 - NOV 2009
  Owner and Lower School Teacher
  Owned and operated a bilingual Montessori kindergarten serving approximately 90 students with a staff of about 20 teachers. Supervised staff and records, led instructional discussions, and supported Montessori teacher development.
- **Discovery Montessori | Costa Rica** — FEB - NOV 2007
  Lower School Teacher
  Taught lower school students in a Montessori learning environment.
- **Home Two Montessori | Costa Rica** — JUL 2002 - NOV 2006
  Teaching Assistant; Prekindergarten & Kindergarten Teacher
  Provided developmentally appropriate instruction across preschool and kindergarten.

Professional Leadership

- Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association (LFLTA) | Served as a board member and helped organize annual world language conferences and webinars for Louisiana educators.
- Curriculum and mentoring: Designed Spanish curricula across grade levels and supported educators through professional collaboration.

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, SERVICE & CREDENTIALS

Teacher Training & Learning

- Acquisition-Driven Instruction: Led a year-long teacher-training initiative; responsible for 24 hours of professional learning.
- Montessori teacher development: Trained teachers in child-centered instructional practices.
- Mind, Brain, and Education: Completed more than two years of training with the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning at St. Andrew's.
- Professional conferences: Participated in state and national world language conferences.

Community Service

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Latino Family Outreach

- Identify Latino families experiencing hardship and coordinate practical support.
- Organize and personally deliver food to families at their homes.
- Lead Christmas Joy outreach to provide gifts and a meaningful holiday experience for children.

Education & Certifications

Bachelor of Lower School Bilingual Education
Universidad Latina · San José, Costa Rica | May 2006

Specialist in Montessori Childhood Education
Pan American Montessori · San José, Costa Rica | January 2006

ESL Certification
Tulane University · New Orleans, Louisiana | July 2012

TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

Teaching Certification · Out-of-State Teaching Certification · Certified Teacher in Montessori Education · ESL Certification

RECOGNITION

Nominated for the 2027 Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association (LFLTA) Teacher of the Year Award.

Teaching with Purpose, Serving with Heart

"Great teaching begins with thoughtful preparation, comes alive through meaningful connections, and finds its deepest purpose in service to others."