

SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Alejandra Ramos

... HONOR STUDENT

... FUTURE DOCTOR

... Michigan City Area Schools success story

Sixth-grader Alejandra Ramos spoke no English when her family moved to Michigan City from Guadalajara, Mexico, four years ago. Today, she is fluent in both English and Spanish – and is an honor roll student at Krueger Middle School.

QUICK STUDY: Alejandra credits her fifth-grade teacher at Niemann Elementary, Janelle Knowlton, and English as a New Language specialist Nancy Moldenhauer for helping her adjust to learning in the U.S. "It was so hard at first," she says. "I didn't know what people around me were saying!" Knowlton, Moldenhauer, and retired teacher volunteer Jean Franke at Springfield Elementary used a variety of activities and materials to help Alejandra learn English – and to keep the bright child challenged.

HOOKED ON SCIENCE: Alejandra's

favorite subjects are "art, gym, math, and science." Recently, she studied zoology and that made a big impression on her, but she's also interested in the medical field. "I am thinking of becoming a pediatrician, because I would like to help sick children," she says.

FOCUSED FAMILY: Alejandra's older brother and sister are also academic standouts, and her 2-year-old sister will likely follow in their footsteps. "My parents are my role models," she says. "My family laughs a lot, but we are very serious about our studies."

SECRET TO SUCCESS:

"Study hard, do your homework, and always pay attention in class!"

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