Testimonial
Carlos Covarrubias
Dennis Twp. Schools, NJ
Subject: K–8 Spanish

For every classroom session, every grade taught, and every subject covered, there’s a different lesson plan to create and a new generation of students to inspire. However, it may be difficult for some U.S. language educators to hold onto language programs, let alone students’ undivided attention. With 18 years of teaching Spanish under his belt, Carlos Covarrubias — Spanish teacher, soccer coach, chaperone, and 8th grade counselor for Dennis Twp. primary schools in Dennis Twp., New Jersey — has found a way to do both, using Mango Languages.

“When they leave [the classroom], you want them to be excited to come back.”

Motivation plays a key role in the argument surrounding the relevance of language education. Inspired by a workshop he attended on the path to obtaining his teaching certificate, Carlos adopted the Total Physical Response (TPR) methodology for language learning. TPR is a language-acquisition method that is based on how languages are acquired from infancy, employing memory recall based on physical movement.

TPR allows Carlos to reach all spectrums of learning needs, introducing and reinforcing their Spanish skills with activities that range from plays and skits, to games and fashion shows (plus chips and homemade salsa for a little extra flavor), while Mango allows students to remain engaged and excited to tackle their take-home lessons and return to class the next day with an internalized and boosted bank of new vocabulary, practical phrases, and cultural insights.

For Carlos, Mango has played a major role in supplementing the syllabus with self-study and extra credit, providing the opportunity for students to seek further knowledge into their studies, using the web and devices and they already use on a day-to-day basis. Students are able to build on classroom instruction and bring it back into the classroom to not just discuss, but inform their discoveries and inquiries in an educational environment.

“When Mango keeps up!”

When his classroom integrated Mango Languages into the mix, Carlos was able to easily infuse his high-energy TPR teaching style with the highly engaging Mango courses. The students fell in love with the vibrant, interactive interface and learning features, like Voice Comparison, Semantic Color-Mapping and Phonetic Pop-Ups, that provide them with the opportunity to hear words and phrases at a slower pace, practice and compare their grammar and speech with native speaker audio, and give themselves oral quizzes — preparing them for presentations and activities and strengthening the foundation of language-acquisition built using Carlos’ TPR activities.

With Mango’s mobile app, equipped with auto play and bluetooth syncing capabilities, Carlos is able to hold students accountable for their take-home assignments, while back-end transparency allows student-teacher access to lesson logins, progress tracking, and chapter test scores, keeping student and teacher organized and informed of progress and trouble spots.
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“The brain is going to make the connection, even though they don’t realize that connection is being made.”

The the organic style of Mango’s methodology and learning system allows students to not only build upon what they’ve learned as they progress, they’re also being taught how to learn a new language. With world language educators like Carlos inspiring generations of Spanish-speaking enthusiasts and championing a progressive, effective, and exciting blended language program for his students, they are more inspired and equipped to blend these methods in their own way, inspiring them to blaze their own language-learning pathway, make connections, and take their learning to the next level in over 70 other languages and dialects, available through all Mango Languages subscriptions.

Tying the excitement of Carlos’ classroom activities into the thematic structure of Mango lessons, with the methodology and learning features that cover grammatical nuances and enhance cultural topics covered in class, the blend creates a personalized, full-circle learning experience that intrinsically connects students’ newly learned language skills with what they already know, fusing their language proficiency to long-term memory and giving students the confidence and broadened perspective to apply their skills in the 21st century global community.