

ELL Specialist Appointed to Serve as Orchard Place Principal



January 6, 2007 – District 62 sheltered English teacher and English Language Learner (ELL) Instructional Specialist, Lauren Leitao, moved to the head of the class Monday evening, when the District 62 Board of Education appointed her as the new principal of Orchard Place Elementary School. She will begin her duties July 1, 2007.

Currently, Leitao serves as an ELL Instructional Specialist and is a member of the District 62 Leadership Council. Her duties include planning staff development for the ELL staff, facilitating testing and assessment for ELL students, mentoring new ELL teachers, and publishing the monthly ELL department newsletter.

Leitao began her teaching career in 2000 as a teacher in the Chicago Public School system. She taught third grade bilingual and fourth grade Dual Language classes. Leitao also worked as an English as A Second Language (ESL) Resource Teacher before moving to District 62.

Her first District 62 assignment was as a fourth grade sheltered English Teacher at Orchard Place Elementary School in 2001. Leitao served as a grade level team leader, was a member of the District 62 Instructional Improvement Council and participated in professional development offered by the Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence (CREDE). CREDE is a federally funded research and development program focused on improving the education of students whose ability to reach their potential is challenged by language or cultural barriers, race, geographic location, or poverty.

Leitao earned a master's degree from National Louis University, and a bachelor's from Michigan State University. Her Bilingual and ESL endorsements, as well as her Administrative Certificate, were earned from National Louis University.

When asked about assuming the principalship of Orchard Place, Leitao replied, "I am very excited and honored to return to Orchard Place as its principal. My past experiences were very positive, and I know I have a great group of students, parents and staff to work with."

Leitao and her husband, Danny, reside in Chicago, IL.