

Thurgood Marshall  
Elementary School  
2401 South Irving Street  
Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 252-2800  
(206) 252-2801 Fax



December 4, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Marcel Agueros has been a math fellow in my classroom for the past three years. A partnership was established between graduate students from the University of Washington and selected schools in the Seattle School District. I teach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Bilingual Orientation Center (BOC) at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. The students in the BOC are new to the United States and speak little or no English. They arrive from all parts of the world and come from various educational backgrounds, very often with no previous schooling. The primary languages are Spanish, Somali, Chinese, and Vietnamese in addition to Tigrinia, Tagalog, and Thai. The curriculum is focused on teaching oral English (including listening and speaking), reading, writing and math.

Mr. Agueros has been an invaluable asset to my classroom. He has served as a consultant to me in teaching math by helping to develop the curriculum and making suggestions about how to best teach math concepts. He communicated consistently to ensure that our math program was running smoothly. He has faithfully come into the classroom on a regular basis and has made a difference in many ways. His multilingualism has enabled Spanish-speaking students to understand and progress in math and their English. He has provided challenging assignments to higher achieving students. The students respected him and welcomed him each time he visited our classroom.

Mr. Agueros will definitely be missed when he leaves our school. His dedication to educating the BOC students has always been apparent. His concern for students, his expertise in his field and his professional manner would make him an asset in any position he may fill in the future. I wish him the best and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Sharon Nakanishi-Acena,  
BOC teacher