

Secondary Instructional Principal:

Mindy Lingnau

Ms. Lingnau has been an educator for over 20 years. She began her career as an elementary TESOL teacher at Edgewood Elementary School in 1997 in the Moriarty-Edgewood School District. She continued as an elementary teacher at Mountainview Elementary School until she moved to the middle school where she was an English teacher until moving to the Estancia Municipal School District in 2017 as the Elementary Principal. In 2019, Ms. Lingnau became the Secondary Instructional Principal. During her tenure in the district, Ms. Lingnau has spearheaded a change in teaching philosophy from covering curriculum to teaching for learning and has been instrumental in developing a vision where the student is at the center of all decision making. Her focus has resulted in a shift in culture from teacher compliance to teacher ownership of true change. This has resulted in improved educational practices in classrooms. Teachers are evaluating the quality and quantity of their instruction and assignments resulting in a move to student-centered instruction informed by evidence of student learning of essential standards. Because of this, and more, the Estancia Board of Education recognized Ms. Lingnau in June 2020 with the Administrator Student Achievement Award.



A close-up portrait of Cheryl Chavez, an elementary teacher. She has blonde hair, is wearing glasses, and a red top. She is smiling and holding a white document with a red graphic. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Elementary Teacher: Cheryl Chavez

Ms. Chavez is a “home grown” teacher having gone through the Estancia Schools educational system from 3rd through 12th grades, graduating in 1992. After receiving her teaching certificate, Ms. Chavez taught for 5.5 years in Belen and Mountainair before returning to her roots in Estancia in January 2002. Since then, she has excelled in every position she has had, including 4th grade, Kindergarten, serving as an Instructional Coach, and most recently, 2nd grade. Learning is the focus in Ms. Chavez’s classroom, where students are engaged in a variety of activities. Whether participating in a large group discussion, working diligently on an independent assignment, practicing skills on the computer, working with a partner, or receiving small group instruction at the table with Ms. Chavez, all students are actively engaged in learning and her classroom is characterized as having a low buzz of activity. The genuine care Ms. Chavez shows for her students is a continuous source of reassurance to them creates climate of support, love, and security where her students thrive.

Ms. Chavez also serves as a teacher leader on the elementary campus where she provides training and support for her colleagues and has served as a teacher mentor to incoming teachers who are new to the profession, sharing her expertise in the teaching of reading, integration of technology, and writing. Recently she create a “bitmoji” virtual classroom for her students to explore, serving as a model for technology integration during a time of distance learning. It was for these reasons, and more, the Estancia Municipal School Board of Education recognized Ms. Chavez as the Elementary Student Achievement Award recipient in June 2020.

Secondary Math Teacher & Instructional Coach: Jaime Silva

Ms. Silva began her career as a Secondary Math teacher at Moriarty High School in 2012. Although new to the profession, her innovative teaching style quickly caught the notice of others, and she was featured in The Independent Newspaper as a dynamic instructor for the Moriarty – Edgewood School District. She served as a teacher leader at the high school, championing math instruction for ALL students. Her expertise reaches beyond math, including all things STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), for which she was recognized as the NM STEM Teacher of the Year in April 2018. Her expertise as a “math expert” resulted in her being recruited and ultimately hired by the Estancia Municipal School District in 2018. Although Ms. Silva has only been with the district for three years, she has already had a tremendous impact on the district as a whole. Her considerable expertise in mathematics has brought clarity to the curriculum, the end product being aligned grade-by-grade pacing guides comprised of essential standards. She has developed a math-recovery program for secondary students, resulting in increased student success. Ms. Silva has also brought other STEM elements to the district, creating a robotics class where students build and program team robots, and compete with other districts. It was for these reasons and more the Estancia Municipal School District Board of Education recognized Ms. Silva as the 2020 Secondary Teacher Student Achievement Award recipient.

