

Teacher of the Month – March 2026
Sandpiper Elementary School- Carolaym Gutierrez

Sandpiper Elementary is proud to nominate **Carolaym Gutierrez**, Autism Spectrum Disorder Teacher for the March 2026 Teacher of the Month recognition.

Ms. Gutierrez' journey as an educator began in Guatemala City, where, at eighteen years old, she stood before her first classroom at Valley of the Angels, a school whose primary purpose was to serve orphans. Although many of her students faced unimaginable challenges, they carried them with hope. During her time there, she realized how education can change someone's life. Although academics are a big part of education, it is more about giving children a safe environment where they can dream and feel they belong.

Ms. Gutierrez carried that dream with her when she moved to the United States. Although starting over was not easy, she began to work as an afterschool counselor, later as a supervisor, and now serves as an Autism cluster teacher.

In her own words, Ms. Gutierrez shares that what inspires her are the milestones, whether big or small, which are part of the classroom every day. It is the nonverbal student discovering their voice, the child who once avoided social interaction now initiating play with a peer, or when a student realizes that he can complete a task independently for the first time. Looking back, she says that her journey from Guatemala to the United States has made her realize her commitment to creating a safe environment where every student grows academically, socially, and emotionally.