

Mary Waechter

**James B. Sanderlin K-8 IB World School, Pinellas County
2025 Honorable Mention**

Mary teaches second grade at James B. Sanderlin K-8 IB World School in Pinellas County.

She was chosen as a 2025 Honorable Mention for using the Tampa Bay Times to help her International Baccalaureate students become balanced and knowledgeable inquirers, three of the IB Learner attributes.

Each week, Mary carefully selects Tampa Bay Times articles, advertisements, comics, weather forecasts, photos and puzzles for her second graders.

Each student chooses a clipping. They identify the text features, such as headlines, captions, or images, that they see, and explain why they think the author chose to add the text feature into the article.

Next, students write a summary of what they learned and consider the author's purpose of the text: Why was this written? How is it helping readers in our community? Who might benefit most from reading this text?

Finally, students make small posters to paste their articles and summaries on. Then, they present these posters to the class.

Mary's students have been so excited about the newspapers that they decided to make their own. They created a class newspaper, affectionately known as "Flock News" due to the flamingo-themed classroom, to share updates with one another. The newspaper has grown from a small fun activity to something the students look forward to working on regularly and sharing with their friends and family.

