

Kristinna Sanchez
Hernando Christian Academy, Hernando County
2024 Honorable Mention

Kristinna teaches fourth grade at Hernando Christian Academy in Hernando County.

Kristinna was chosen as a 2024 Honorable Mention for using the newspaper to teach vocabulary, geography, current events and critical thinking.

Kristinna only started using the Times in her classroom in January 2024, but she jumped in with both feet!

Kristinna writes: “Our class spends two class periods a week with the newspaper. As a class, we read through the paper and pick two articles to study. As we read the story, students write a list of words that they have never read before. Then they use iPads to research and write the definition, part of speech, and how the word is used in a sentence in their notes.

Last week, there was an article about bull sharks. The students learned 25 new vocabulary words, such as estuary, anglers, intern and granular. This one article not only taught the students that bull sharks can live in both fresh and salt water, but also enhanced their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. This article also covered geography, as we researched Crystal River where the estuaries were located. It also inspired students to research other sharks found along the Florida coast.”

Having the newspaper in the classroom program has also greatly enhanced Kristinna’s students’ interest in current events. For example, after reading about famines in Hati and Gaza, students used critical thinking skills to research ways to help these countries feed their citizens, wrote summaries of the article and brainstormed on ideas to solve the crisis.



Reading the Tampa Bay Times.