



**INES
ROCHE**

Ines Roche emigrated to Miami from Cuba on December 6, 1989 and remembers it like it was yesterday. She arrived with her 45-day old newborn Wendy to be greeted by her husband Nelson who had arrived two months prior. Her son Willy was born in December 1992 and both children lead successful careers. They are very grateful for their mother's hard work and dedication and for providing them a path to success.

Ines often speaks of her struggles putting down roots in a foreign country with new customs and traditions. Like many other Cubans, she embraced her new country and in 1994, became a proud US citizen. She began her career with the Department of Food & Nutrition in 1996 and after 10 years, entered the Manager Training Class. She spent three long years covering schools waiting for a school near her home and the long wait paid off. The Kendale Elementary students and staff are lucky to have Ines as their cafeteria manager. Her experience covering all different school levels throughout the district has molded her into a tenacious and capable leader.



Ines is an early riser and likes to arrive at her school by 6:15 a.m. She likes to get her paperwork ready while the kitchen is quiet and before staff arrives at 7:00 a.m. Her dedication to her staff, the students, and the school staff is evident by observing the cleanliness of her kitchen and serving lines. Her kitchen has been featured on our department's website during promotions and she has won four prizes throughout the years for best decorated serving line.



Manny Pasarín, her Food Service Supervisor says he enjoys seeing Ines trying out new and innovative ways to attract more students to participate. She will wander the cafeteria coaxing the kids that bring lunch to try out the fun menu items. She has initiative and does not hesitate to implement her ideas. One time, she decided to take out a tray of bite size cut cinnamon rolls and walked around the tables offering samples. Students were excited to taste the new product, and her breakfast participation has now increased. At the beginning of this school year, Ines coordinated with the principal to have the parents visit the cafeteria during the open house. She wanted to be available to answer questions and to showcase her operation. She prepared sample trays so that the parents can see some of the menu items that are available to their children. The parents were excited to see the menu items and the cleanliness of the kitchen, and the idea was well received.



Manny Pasarin particularly likes that Ines has a chalk board menu sign where she writes the menu daily in different colors. She places the menu board outside right at the entrance to the cafeteria so that all students can see the items available for the day.

Ines has a small staff of four and all of them work as a team to get the job done efficiently and correctly. It is impressive to see them working harmoniously so that they have time to sit at the end of the day to enjoy lunch together as a family.





Ms. Roche's dedication to M-DCPS deserves to be acknowledged. Mr. Pasarin says he enjoys visiting her kitchen because he always walks out having learned something new. It is obvious how much she loves what she does because it comes natural to her. It is refreshing to see how Ines Roche never misses a beat with her energy and passion for her career.

A big thank you to principal Ms. Vivian Bouza-Debs and her entire staff, for welcoming us into their home and allowing our department to "SPOTLIGHT" one of our best Managers, Ines Roche.

