Lee Perez is a 5th-8th grade English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School in Omaha, Nebraska. Perez holds an Associate of Arts degree from Mid-Plains Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He holds two teaching endorsements which are grades 7-12 Social Sciences and PK-12 ESL. Perez has taught for 15 years in the very diverse urban Omaha Public Schools district. He started his career at Marrs Magnet Middle School teaching 7th grade World Studies for the Dual Language program for 12 years. He has spent the last three years teaching ESL at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School. Perez also coaches boy’s Cross-Country and Track and Field at Buffett. Perez has received several recognitions for his efforts as teacher. He was the recipient of the 2021 Award for Teaching Excellence through the Nebraska State Education Association and was also named a Cox Communication Omaha area Education Hero. He is also a part of the Commissioner of Education’s Teacher Advisory Committee, the Hispanic/Chicano representative for the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee and a member of the National Education Association’s Teachers of Color cohort. Perez is passionate about multilingual education, culturally responsive teaching pedagogy, and being an advocate for more English Learner training and awareness for all teachers. Perez also believes in diversifying the teaching workforce in Nebraska and nationwide by recruiting and retaining more teachers of color.
HOW CULTURE CAN IMPACT CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

What do you do if you get a student from another country? They are experiencing “culture” shock and often times many of them have never attended school before. Lee shares his tips on how to work with new students from different countries who are English Language Learners (ELLs). This workshop will display different classroom management strategies when interacting with English Language Learners in mainstream classrooms. This workshop will be a powerful insight into how different cultures from around the world can impact how we manage our classrooms with diverse student populations.

ESL TEACHING STRATEGIES, CAN THESE STRATEGIES BE EFFECTIVE FOR ALL STUDENTS?

Learning a new language can be a very daunting cognitive task, so ESL teachers provide multiple strategies and scaffolds to help English Language Learners achieve linguistic and academic mastery. However, can these strategies be used to benefit the needs of all students? Well, the answer is YES! Lee shares multiple ESL strategies and pedagogy that can be cross-curricular and benefit all children in the areas of Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies and many more.

ACQUIRING LANGUAGE-FACTS TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW

Language and communication are something that drives us each and every day in schools and in life. This workshop will explore the methods and best practices behind second language acquisition and how our English Language Learners process information. Lee will share tips, language teaching strategies, and research behind second language acquisition and how all teachers can use these educational tools to help empower our ELL student populations.

TEACHING STUDENTS ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH DATA

Student accountability is one of the biggest driving forces in public schools today. School districts will push for teacher accountability through data, but how do we teach students to be accountable using data? This workshop will display examples from Lee’s classroom on how he teaches his students the data and how they take that data to set goals. Lee’s student accountability method can lead to higher academic and testing achievements and results.

Photos courtesy of Drew Worster, NDE Multimedia Specialist and Lee Perez