

# Meet Oregon's Teacher of the Year

## Ethelyn Tumulad

knows what it means to feel like an outsider in the American education system. When she immigrated with her family at the age of five from the Philippines, she found herself immersed in a school system that didn't reflect her or her experiences.

- She didn't see other Asian Americans centered in lessons.
- Or the struggles of those who come to our country and must suddenly cope with the complexities of English.
- Or the issues of assimilation and culture that impact virtually every minority student.

Now a teacher herself, Ethelyn realizes that the challenges she faced as a student are far from unique. She sees many students struggling with these same issues. Her teaching centers these students, in fact every student, who comes through her classroom door.

## Giving Students What They're Hungry For

Proudly Filipina, she likens her room to a dining table. "Not only do Filipinos love to feed you," she says, "but we're very generous; we've been through a lot. We have resiliency."

Although she's not talking about literal food, it's about giving every child what they need to learn. "There should always be a seat at the table. Whatever my student is hungry for, that's what they will get."

Ethelyn teaches English Language Arts at Clackamas High School. Her skills in the classroom, as well as her student-centered philosophy, set her apart as Oregon's 2022 Teacher of the Year. She'll travel during the coming year to represent Oregon as a leader and example of excellence in education. And her students will continue to benefit, if Ethelyn has anything to say about it, by always having a seat at the table.

*Nominations are now open for Oregon's next Teacher of the Year. If you know a teacher who, like Ethelyn, is making a difference for their students, nominate them today!*

