



Meriden Public Schools:
Bilingual Success with
Wonders and Maravillas

testing formats, she no longer needs to cram or rush test preparation. According to Alicia, “You don’t have to worry about prepping materials or wondering things like, ‘Did I phrase this correctly? Did I hit that target learning?’ It’s all done for you.”

Alicia also uses *Wonders* and *Maravillas* resources to adapt instruction to specific student needs. With components like the *Wonders* Reading Writing Companion and its collection of differentiated text, all students—from English language newcomers to students who are approaching, on, or beyond grade level—can effectively access classroom content. As Alicia said, with *Wonders*, “You don’t have to tailor the student to the content; you can tailor the content to the student.”

For new students in Alicia’s classroom, having high-quality Spanish materials available helps them build background knowledge, participate in classroom conversations, and dive into learning activities. Because the content is accessible, these students can concentrate their focus on learning and speaking English. Students who are more familiar with English, moreover, can access English materials to practice and grow their skills. Not only do *Wonders* and *Maravillas* drive language acquisition, but Alicia has found that they even forge cross-curricular connections to subjects like science and social studies—regardless of student language level or learning needs.

Maravillas content also resonates with Alicia’s students, she noted, as they can connect to its cultural components. Relatable content, as well as the social and emotional learning aspects of *Wonders* and *Maravillas*, allow students in her bilingual classroom to feel both seen and heard. “These kids have stories,” Alicia said, “and sometimes they can’t learn if they don’t share them.” Having opportunities to express themselves, and to see their lives reflected in classroom content, offers students a sense of safety and security.