

**Denise Deffes teaches Bilingual Special Ed. in Houston, Texas**

**Denise's profile:**

**Hometown: Progresso, Texas**

**Major at TAMUG: Maritime Studies, 2007**

**Why did you choose a career in teaching? After working in non-profit education departments, I really enjoyed teaching children and enriching their minds, so the next step was teaching!**

**Number of years in classroom: 5**

**My School: Kaiser Elementary, HISD**

**Extracurricular sponsorships/coaching assignments: Science Club and Recycling Club**

**Other subjects taught: Bilingual 4th grade (self-contained)**

**How I motivate my students to learn: Gone are the days of uniform teaching strategies! Today's teachers have to be diverse educators who adapt to their students' learning styles. I ensure that each of my students knows they are fully capable of learning at their own level.**

**My educational philosophy: To teach each student to their fullest potential utilizing their learning style.**

**My long term career goals: I am currently pursuing a master's in curriculum and instruction to eventually work as a science specialist in my district. I would also like to pursue a career within environmental organizations as an educational specialist.**

**Favorite part of my job: Working with my students every day!**

**Least favorite part of my job: Paperwork**

**Last Book I read: *Special Education for Today's Teacher***

**My Hobbies: Reading, hiking, cooking, and outdoor adventures**