

## **Yalil Nieves - Principal**

*Mary Gagge Peterson Elementary School  
Chicago, IL*



Yalil Nieves is the principal of Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School, a CPS neighborhood STEAM school where reading is the foundation for student empowerment and academic success. As a proud Latina leader and lifelong reader, she believes every student deserves access to books that reflect who they are and expand their understanding of the world. With the support of the Book Love Foundation grant, Yalil is leading a schoolwide effort to increase student voice in literacy: empowering students to take ownership of their reading lives by helping to select the books that fill their classroom libraries. Her goal is to ensure that every child finds joy in reading, sees themselves in the stories they encounter, and builds a strong, confident

reading identity that will stay with them for life.