

JEE RA



Jee Ra was born in South Korea and moved to Argentina with her family when she was twelve years old. After graduating from high school in Buenos Aires, she came to the United States to be a fashion designer. She studied patternmaking at FIT but found that the fashion industry was not for her. Following her marriage, and while raising her children, two daughters and a son, Ms. Ra returned to school and earned her teaching degree from the College of Staten Island. Jee then taught Spanish at Susan E. Wagner High School for fifteen years, retiring in 2016.

As a Korean woman teaching Spanish to American students, Ms. Ra found teaching to be a very rewarding experience, allowing her to communicate with people from all different backgrounds and cultures. For example, the Korean Fan Dance Club, which Ms. Ra formed in 2002, is now comprised of students from all ethnicities performing a traditional Korean dance.

"Being a trilingual person, I feel the responsibility to represent each culture in me in this diverse community where I live," said Jee. "I have especially enjoyed working with the Staten Island Museum. The entire staff has passion and appreciates the importance of learning and sharing the unique and beautiful culture of Korea."

Today, Ms. Ra serves as the principal of the Korean School of Staten Island, is the program director of the Korean Community Development Center, and serves on the advisory board of the Greater Youth Symphony of Staten Island.