



# About Robert (Bobby) de Grouchy

Bobby was born in the Philippines; his mother is Filipino and his Dad is originally from Baltimore. He grew up in Tacoma, graduating from Lincoln High School.

Bobby went to Whitman College in Walla Walla for his undergraduate degree and received an MEd. in Urban Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Bobby has been working in the Clover Park School District in Lakewood for nearly seventeen years. Bobby has taught Elementary, PE, Humanities and for the majority of his career, he taught CTE at middle and high schools. This is where Bobby met his partner Miriam who is the best teacher he knows.

Tracy Godat, FEPPP Executive Director, sat down and asked Bobby a few questions about his teaching experience.

**TG: What started you into teaching?**

**RdG:** I started in a completely different field. I was going to law school and was taking a class on education and law. I loved the class. My professor was a school superintendent and encouraged me to look into being a teacher. I took a semester in the education school and never went back.

**TG: What has been the most rewarding thing about being a teacher**

**RdG:** I love being a teacher. Its rewarding to do something you love, but the most rewarding thing in my career is seeing students who have graduated in the community. I run into them all over the place and am honored that they still ask me for advice or invite me for a cup of coffee. Knowing that they appreciate you is extremely rewarding.

**TG: Tell me about the pride you have in Clover Park School District and their support of financial education.**

**RdG:** I'm very proud to work in the Clover Park School District. My Principal at Hudtloff, Cindy Adams, and CTE Director Diane Carver have been extremely supportive of my work in financial education. They have given me and my colleagues the opportunity to integrate finance into our classrooms and explore ways we can expand financial literacy into our STEM frameworks. We are building a new course at the middle level and looking forward to launching it in the Spring.

**TG: You are a CTE Middle School Teacher – why do you think it is important to introduce CTE into Middle School?**

**RdG:** CTE prepares students for their lives after K-12. My job is to prepare students who are good citizens and contributing members of society. CTE gets students ready for the real world. Middle School

students are not too young to learn how to manage money, understand taxation and feel prepared for their futures.

**TG: If you had one wish for the future of education for Clover Park School District what would it be?**

**RdG:** I would wish that every student had exposure and equal access to the opportunities ahead of them. I want them to feel they have been prepared for their life as an adult, and a member of the community. I hope that regardless of where they come from, or the challenges they face they can have a personally and financially secure future.

Bobby currently lives in beautiful Steilacoom, Washington with Miriam, their son Ethan, as well as their Doberman and two Chihuahuas. They are so proud of their son Ethan who is graduating from Steilacoom High School and attending Bobby's alma mater, Whitman College, in the Fall.

Bobby feels they are blessed to be surrounded by their large extended family. He eats breakfast with his parents every Saturday morning and in his free time he is remodeling their house or working on his golf game.