

students better, and using more hands-on activities and projects. She's also been asking more questions that get students to think critically.

Uttel also received her certification in November and though it was a time-consuming process, she said it was well worth it.

"The biggest surprise for me was how much I had to look at myself," she said.

"I never looked that deep inside myself as a teacher."



ELIZABETH LARA/Herald News

Dawn Uttel, center, who is a nationally board certified teacher, checks over the work of Elizabeth Morales, right, with student Shikyra Adams. Uttel teaches fourth-grade language arts at School 12 in Paterson.