

Participant 5 - River of experience

1992: completed studies at teacher's college and received my degree with a specialty in elementary teaching in a general education school; my first independent steps in acquiring teaching experience within the walls of a general education boarding school for students from socially disadvantaged families; responsibility for a Russian-language class and teaching other subjects in Russian-language classes.

1993: successfully overcame various obstacles and gained admission to a post-secondary institution - Slovyansk Pedagogical Institute, into the Faculty of pedagogy and methods for elementary education.

1995-2007: a period of close cooperation and creative inspiration with mentor and colleague, Zinaida Kompaniiets.

1995: my first graduating class of elementary school students who had studied with me for three years; a second set of students in the first grade; transition to 4-year study; education of children according to a new program and a gradual transition to education using textbooks by Ukrainian authors (M. Bohdanovych, O. Savchenko, M. Vashulenko, T. Baybara, and others).

1996: marriage.

1997: defended my degree capstone project 'Comparative characteristics of methodological systems of teaching mathematics in elementary grades according to current textbooks (M. Moro and M. Bohdanovich, authors); completed my studies at the Institute, obtained the qualification category of 'elementary school teacher'.

1999: first attestation testing – assignment of level II teacher qualification.

1999: birth of a child, maternity leave.

2000-2008: return to teaching; teaching subjects in the Ukrainian language and working in a Ukrainian-language class; self-study on the topic 'Means of formation of cognitive native language competence at the elementary level'.

2002-2005: a test of my humanity (physically and emotionally exhausting time: constant care for a sick mother, small child, work).

2004: second attestation test - assignment of level I teacher qualification.

2008: laureate of the 'Teacher of the Year' competition at the city level.

2008-2017: appointed to coordinate the work of elementary school teachers at the school level and to manage continuity between preschool and elementary school.

2009: another attestation test - assignment of the qualification upper-level specialist.

2010-2014: preparation of many methodological materials (lessons, scripts, articles) during the presentation of my personal pedagogical experience at the city level; laureate of the 1st Ukrainian National Competition 'Creative Teacher - Gifted Student' in the nomination 'Original

developmental lesson' and 'Scenarios of open educational activities'; initial publication of original methodological and creative materials in the national magazine 'Tell Your Grandchild' No. 1-2, 2012 and in the regional electronic magazine 'Golden Pages of Education' No. 26 (10), 2013.

2012: transition to a new curriculum (12 years of study) and implementation of the new State standard of general elementary education; developed and implemented the long-term project 'School of Life Success' at the district level (2012-2016) to change instructors' worldview and improve the level of professional skills of teachers and educators of preschool institutions; laureate of the 'Teacher of the Year' competition at the city level.

2014: another attestation test - confirmation of the qualification category upper-level specialist with the assignment of the title 'Senior teacher'.

2013-2016: development of methodological materials, their publication on Internet sites and practical application for online interaction between kindergarten students and elementary grade students (masterclasses, quests, competitions).

2014-2021: at the city level, a permanent member of the expert group for studying the activities of pedagogical workers and a member of the jury for the Petro Jacyk International Ukrainian Language Competition.

2016-2021: permanent participant of the Donetsk Congress of Educators at the regional and city levels.

2017: invited to work at the city education department of Toretsk, Donetsk region, as a methodologist within the city methodological unit (part-time): coordinating the work of elementary school teachers in the city; prepared presentation materials for participation in the national academic and practitioner conference: 'The new elementary school - from theory to practice' (ideas around child-centeredness).

2017-2019: education reform; preparation and implementation of the new State standard of general elementary education; became an agent of change; took an active part in training sessions on the education quality assurance system based in the city:

- training for vice-principals of general secondary education institutions on educational work in elementary grades on the topic 'New elementary school: from theory to practice',
- a three-day event of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine with the support of UNICEF and the public organization 'Health through Education Children's Fund' about modeling of the concept 'A safe and child-friendly school'; to do with integration of education based on life skills from the course 'I explore the world' as supported methodologically by the New Ukrainian School program;
- live trainer - teaching methods, as part of the training course 'Education based on life skills in the context of the New Ukrainian School', part of the broader course 'I explore the world';
- face-to-face training for the Donetsk Regional Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education - IPPO (section 8.1.1) on the topic 'The new elementary school: from theory to practice'.

2018-2021 years: an active and certified participant of such regional events, as ‘Exhibition of innovative practices’ and ‘Design of the New Ukrainian School’ (as part of the August Congress of Educators of the Donetsk region); an active participant of the Ukrainian National Internet Marathons ‘From a traditional school to the NUS’ and ‘Direct line to NUS trainers’.

2018: passed the required test and was invited to carry out a scholarly and methodological evaluation of the electronic version of the mathematics textbook project for the 1st grade (section PO3014, Report No. 2 dated 04/16/2018); participant of a regional event within the framework of the Ukrainian National Scholarly and Practitioner Conference ‘Designing the individual trajectory of professional development of teaching staff in the context of European integration of the educational environment, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Donetsk Oblast IPPO’, which included my original 3D model of a classroom for the 1st grade of the New Ukrainian School.

2018 to date: co-organizer of the activities of our school based Eurofriendship Euroclub; I established a personal blog and YouTube channel to support students during distance learning.

2018-2021: I conducted training sessions and taught city teachers new educational approaches.

2019: another attestation test - confirmation of the qualification category upper level specialist and assignment of the title ‘Teacher-methodologist’; passed the School of Methodologists - Beginner level ‘Alphabet of Methodological Work’ at the Donetsk Region IPPO, Kramatorsk; was a participant in the August national conference ‘The New Ukrainian School: challenges and prospects of educational reform’ in Kyiv and was awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Minister of Education and Science (2016-2019), L. M. Hrynevych.

2018-2021 years: an active participant of the regional creative laboratory ‘Modern trends in education’, the cluster ‘Management practices of the NUS’, and ‘Eurohub’ at the Donetsk region IPPO, Kramatorsk.

2020-2021 years: successfully completed training in the course ‘New Ukrainian textbook. Methods and tools for evaluating the quality of educational materials for the New Ukrainian School’ and study of the curriculum module on civic education and training, ‘I learn. I act. I defend. Elementary School’.

2019: became member and chair of the city’s Authors Creative Workshop, the result of which was a methodological guide for elementary school teachers, ‘Lessons for the development of coherent speech in the 4th grade’, with multimedia support, approved by the Methodological Council of the Education Department of the City of Toretsk (Report No. 3 dated 04.01.2019); publication of the collection ‘New approach. Education of younger schoolchildren through perception’, approved by the methodological council of the city (Report No. 2 dated November 7, 2019); advisor on ‘Digital technologies in the work of elementary school teachers’, approved by the methodological council of the city (Report No. 2 dated November 7, 2019); as well as the ‘Methodological guide for teachers on holding morning meetings’, approved by the methodological council of the city (Report No. 1 dated 08/31/2020).

2018-2021: I published materials at the national and regional levels:

- development of Elementary School Week (<http://metodportal.net/node/118013>); methodological material and related training: ‘Thematic day (week). Particularities of planning, organization. and implementation’ in the collection of materials ‘Practical Advisor to the NUS Methodologist’ (Cluster ‘NUS Management Practices’), compiler: T. V. Kolhan – Kramatorsk, 2019. – 136 p.
- published article ‘Professional development of the New Ukrainian School teacher’ in the collection of materials of the 3rd national scholarly and practitioner Internet conference ‘Professional development of specialists in the adult education system: history, theory, technology’ (participant, certificate #447/17ts, April 19, 2018), UDC 378.37.001.08 Recommended for publication by the Academic Council of the TsIPPO DVNZ (Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education, State Institution of Higher Education) ‘University of Education Management’ (Report No. 3 dated June 12, 2018).
- published article ‘Checklist of key competencies of a teacher of the New Ukrainian School for formal and informal education’ April 9, 2019, Kyiv, certificate #67 OK-19.
- published article ‘Changes in the professional development of the teacher of the New Ukrainian School’ UDC 378.37.001.08 - professional development of specialists in the adult education system: history, theory, technologies: program of the 4th National Internet Conference, October 16, 2019, Kyiv. Academic editor: V. V. Sydorenko. Compilers: Y. L. Shven, N. P. Volynets: TSIPO, 2019. 46 p.
- development of tasks for the manual ‘Competence-oriented Ukrainian language tasks for grade 3-4 students’ UDC 371.161.2.134 K 11, approved by the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Donetsk Regional Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education, Report No. 4 dated 16.09.2021, [comp.: N. O. Kapinus, O. V. Usachova]. – Kramatorsk, 2021 – 90 p., certificate No. 2287-21, Report of the meeting of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology No. 6 dated November 4, 2021.

2020: successfully passed competitive selection for a study trip in the field of education to Finland. As a result - valuable experience in the implementation of distance learning from Finland, Estonia, Austria, America, and Ukraine (Novopechersk School, Kyiv) and a scholarship for advanced training from the House of Europe.

2020-2021 years: implementation of my own project, entitled ‘Learning through action’ on the formation of skills in mastering online education tools among the teaching community of the city; the result of my work was the successful incorporation of such online instruments as Class Dojo, the personal blog and website, Google Meet, and ZOOM by the teachers of the city during distance and offline learning, and the launch of a flash mob about developing digital habits on the teachers’ Facebook page.

2021: self-development and self-study - completed training as part of the educational program for improving the qualifications of scientific and pedagogical workers ‘Competencies of a modern teacher. Leadership in education’ with the support of the H. S. Kostiuk Institute of Psychology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy

of Sciences of Ukraine, and the public organization ‘Academy of Modern Educators’; fulfilled my dream - conquered Hoverla, the highest mountain in Ukraine.

2021: became a semi-finalist of the national Global Teacher Prize Ukraine 2021 and entered the TOP-50 best teachers of Ukraine and TOP-10 finalists in the nomination ‘Teacher of the Front-line Zone’.

Additional explanatory notes provided by participant

1990s - My first teaching experiences; I came to understand the value of the profession; I acquired important skills in terms of a humane attitude to children's activities; thanks to my diligence and initiative, I gradually earned the respect of my students, their parents and my colleagues; I felt strong support from the latter; during this period, I completed my studies at a post-secondary institution and passed my first attestation; I had a great desire to work in Ukrainian-language classes, but at that time, it was a priority for more experienced teachers; then I got married, had a daughter, and gained valuable experience of being a mother and watching my child's development from the first days of life.

The early 2000s - I returned to teaching after my maternity leave; finally, I was able to work in Ukrainian-language classes; for several years in a row, I interacted with an experienced, creative, decent, sincere mentor and colleague, Zinaida Kompaniits, who became a role model for me; for some time, due to the lack of specialists, I taught mathematics in Ukrainian at a secondary school; I survived a time of personal challenges: at this time, I felt the support and understanding of my husband in the process of caring for our little daughter, caring for my sick mother, while working; I did not give up attempts for personal and professional growth, work on self-development and improvement of my practical experience in the topic area ‘Means of forming cognitive native language competence in elementary school.’

The second decade of the 2000s was a transition to a new content of education, the introduction of new State Standards; teachers had their first opportunities to use computer technology in the educational process; I personally had the opportunity to prove myself as a teacher in action: I coordinated the work on continuity between elementary school teachers and kindergarten teachers, for the first time implementing the project at the district level called ‘School of Life Success’; I continued to improve my pedagogical skills and devote time to my personal growth; my first publications appeared in printed media at the national and regional levels; I disseminated my pedagogical experience through the publication of methodological materials on Internet sites, through educational projects, and on online platforms.

2017-2022 was a period of the greatest activity so far: a radical transformation of education was taking place throughout the country; I become an agent of change and an active participant in the implementation of education reform in the Donetsk region; during this period, I rebooted my understanding of professional skills; I quickly learned new approaches, attended a large number of training sessions, webinars, meetings, and courses related to working in a new way; formed a new vision of teacher activity, student work, and supporting parents in the educational process; I gained new achievements that motivated and inspired, both myself and others; I taught colleagues to work differently, demonstrated the effectiveness of new approaches during practice lessons; I

independently improved by information and digital competences, which became priorities at work; digital competence is today a valuable indicator not only of pedagogical, but also life experience, especially during the spread of COVID-19 and in wartime; constant exposure to shelling has had a considerable effect on our mental state, but understanding the difficult situation of everyone around me required resilience, so I continued to communicate with my relatives whenever possible, held online meetings with my pupils, kept in touch with parents, colleagues; students rejoiced at every meeting and supported one another, likewise, demonstrating their modest achievements; what is happening now in Ukraine makes us realize that the most valuable thing is life; I continue to work in such difficult conditions in the belief that Ukraine will win! The whole world supports us, this is important!

