



Monica Nelson

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Monica Nelson

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

GRADE LEVELS: 7th grade

SUBJECT: Math

Q. What are your 7th grade students working on in math class?

A. We are learning scale factor and proportional reasoning. Proportional thinking is a huge issue with the new math standards that were just passed. It runs throughout the entire curriculum, so students have to know this basic function to be successful.

Q. What targets have you set for your students this year?

A. Our goal in 7th grade is to get students algebraic ready by 8th grade or their freshmen year. Then, as sophomores, they will be in line for geometry, which is what they need for the 10th grade WASL.

Q. Why is it important for students to have strong math and science skills?

A. Kids have to be able to think critically. They have to learn how to solve a problem. I want my kids to not be afraid to try and fail. This helps them become more successful in solving problems.

Q. What is the key to having success teaching middle school students?

A. You have to be flexible. You have to have a great sense of humor and be able to go with the flow. These kids are going through a lot of changes and they just want a safe learning environment.

COMMENTS FROM GARRISON PRINCIPAL GINA YONTS:

"Monica has become an integral part of our math team at Garrison. She has high expectations for kids and works hard to implement quality math instruction in each of her classes. Monica also has taken on building and district level leadership roles which helps to keep Garrison students and staff moving forward in the math reform movement. I am thrilled to have her as a teacher leader in our building!"

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM MONICA NELSON'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM MONICA...

"You can never bottleneck any student, any teacher, any program or any school. Some people try to bottleneck kids to be at a certain developmental stage. If I can get students to grow and master a new skill, it might not be on somebody else's timeline, but I know that they're doing a great job."

"I love teaching and I love what I do. I have great kids. I want people to come in and visit my class. I want them to see how hard we are working. They are missing out if they don't."



"I'm a huge advocate for G.L.A.D (Guided Language Acquisition Design). It gets kids engaged. They work in groups and are up and moving. It also teaches students to take ownership in their learning and become responsible."