



Luz Phillips

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Luz Phillips

SCHOOL: Prospect Point Elementary

GRADE LEVELS: 1st grade (Transitional Bilingual)

Q. How does the new ORIGOmth curriculum help keep students engaged?

A. The students have fun doing math now because of ORIGOmth. They are learning so much, especially with computations. Last year I had them as kindergartners and they had a hard time with computations. It's amazing how much they are learning with this new program.

Q. What is ORIGOmth?

A. ORIGOmth: A Step-by-Step approach to computation has been developed to help teachers prepare students with essential skills for tomorrow's world. It is a common-sense approach that uses current, relevant research for the teaching and learning of computation.

Q. Why are you so passionate about math?

A. I began my college education in Ecuador, South America where I received a degree in Business Administration. I love math. I try to find ways to make learning math fun through games and activities.

Q. Why is it important to teach bilingual students in their native language first?

A. They need to learn the content while they are acquiring the language. We have a good program, but I would like to see it extended through middle school. The students need more time in their native language to reach their full potential.

## COMMENTS FROM PROSPECT POINT PRINCIPAL CHRIS GARDEA:

"Luz is an inspiration to us all. She is passionate about teaching and including parents as partners in their child's education. Luz finds creative ways to actively engage students in her lessons. Staff members have commented on her ability to incorporate the GLAD strategies, and her willingness to support them in the implementation of these strategies."

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
LUZ PHILLIPS' CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LUZ...

"It's important for me to pair my students up with other 1st grade students. We do PE and Music together with students who are not in the bilingual program. This helps them not feel so lonely and be more a part of the school."

"I began my career at Sharpstein as a Para-Pro. Sharpstein Principal Laure Quaresma was my special mentor. She told me we needed more bilingual teachers and helped motivate me to get my teaching certificate."



"I use different teaching strategies to help motivate my students. Bilingual students need activities and lessons that make learning fun. I always try to find ways to teach them based on their specific needs and interests."