



Audra Cummings

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Audra Cummings

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

SUBJECT: Language Arts/Reading

Q. Tell us about the fun twist you put on your business letter writing assignment.

A. Business letter writing is a good skill to have and it's in our curriculum. In my first year we decided to write famous people. So after the WASL, I let the kids choose who they want to write and we put all the people who have written us back up on the wall.

Q. Why has this been a popular project?

A. It's so exciting for the kids and they look forward to it all year long. They work so hard on the WASL and I tell them as long as they continue to work hard they can write famous people for the business letter practice.

Q. Why do you put so much emphasis on spelling?

A. Spelling is a big deal and students get graded on their spelling ability on the WASL so we need to focus on it. Every Monday I give students a pre-test and then the real test on Friday. Some of us are really good spellers and others need more work on it.

Q. Why do you take students to Whitman College?

A. College is something all students need to focus on. A lot of our students who come from families with not much money believe college is not an option and they have been told this. We need them to get ideas and thoughts and believe it's possible.

A Whitman student from Yakima spoke to the students. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school. His parents were immigrant workers, and it was a huge eye opening experience for our students. We've spent a lot of time talking about college and they are very excited about their future.

Over →



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
AUDRA CUMMINGS' CLASS:



COMMENTS: FROM AUDRA...

"I never thought I would be at a middle school. I always saw myself as a K-5 teacher. Middle School students are so much fun. They have a great sense of humor and energy. The students are very positive and they work well together."

"We just finished our persuasive writing unit and will move into poetry. We write in our composition notebook every day to help students improve their writing skills."



"I chose to write Sue Bird of the Seattle Storm. I just admire the way she plays basketball and how she is a good person."

**Torri Crawford**  
(Left - next to Audra in yellow shirt.)