



Claudia Saldivar

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Claudia Saldivar

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

GRADE LEVELS: First Grade (Transitional Bilingual)

Q. How did your childhood help you develop a passion for bilingual education?

A. When I attended school in Dayton, I was the only one in my class who didn't speak English. I felt isolated and often wanted to hide in the bathroom, because I felt I didn't belong. I couldn't understand my teacher or my classmates.

Q. Why does bilingual education help students feel connected to their school?

A. I'm able to talk to my students about anything, so they feel comfortable. I know what they are going through. Bilingual education helps them keep learning while they acquire the language. I once led a lesson in Spanish to English-only speaking teachers to show them what it's like to be in class and not understand what the teacher is saying. It really opened their eyes. They felt lost.

Q. Saldivar says it was a former teacher who inspired her to succeed.

A. I knew I wanted to be a teacher in the first grade. Even though my teacher didn't speak my language, her hugs and smiles made me feel special. When I received my teaching certificate, I wrote a letter to thank her. She wrote me back and told me she always believed in me.

## COMMENTS FROM GREEN PARK PRINCIPAL MIKE LAMBERT:

"Claudia is an excellent teacher who goes above and beyond to ensure the academic, social, and emotional success of her first grade students.

Claudia spends a lot of time researching and implementing effective instructional materials and strategies in her classroom to enhance student learning. She participated in the GLAD training this summer and has incorporated these techniques into her lessons to facilitate language acquisition and content understanding. Claudia is a team player and valued member of our educational team."

Over →



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
CLAUDIA SALDIVAR'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM CLAUDIA...

"I believe all children can learn. I was raised in a difficult situation. I was able to go to school and learn. I know they can too because I provide them with help and support. I work closely with parents, too, so they know what my expectations are for their students."

"One of my favorite GLAD strategies is pictorial input. I draw in front of the students and use new vocabulary. Then the students place the word on the picture and use it in oral sentences."



"Our students often work in teams to learn how to work cooperatively. We are working on a science lesson with clouds. We draw pictures, learn new vocabulary and talk about what we are learning. I love seeing the kids have fun."