



Jessica McDaniels

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Jessica McDaniels

SCHOOL: Blue Ridge Elementary

GRADE: Kindergarten

Q. Your students rotate into small groups. What skills are they learning?

A. We rotate into three groups. In one group they do a weekly story and projects with that story. Another group does letters, names, sounds and independent reader books and the third group does Harcourt worksheets and learning games.

Q. Why do you place students in small groups?

A. I can touch base with each student and see where they are throughout the week. The students get a sense of a schedule and it gives them responsibilities.

Q. What academic gains have you seen the students make?

A. Just in the last couple of months they really started sounding out words. They are becoming excellent readers. I probably have one-third of my class already reading. Basically I see kindergarten as the new first grade.

Q. How do your students get along with their classmates?

A. This is a strong willed group of kids and it has taken a lot of work. They now know the full meaning of respect and what it takes to get along. They work in pairs and in groups and understand the meaning of teamwork.

Q. Why is your room so decorated with learning materials?

A. It's important to have a lot of stimulation to get their minds thinking about what is going on around them because everything is brand new.

COMMENTS FROM BLUE RIDGE PRINCIPAL CONNIE TAYLOR-RANDALL:

"Jessica is outstanding at determining learning objectives that are kid friendly so that children know what they are learning and why. This is difficult for kindergarten students and she has done an exceptional job."

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
JESSICA MCDANIELS' CLASS:



COMMENTS: FROM JESSICA...

"There's a lot they don't teach you as a student teacher. I didn't realize how difficult it would be having my own classroom. My classroom management has come a long way. Trying to mesh all the different personalities you have into one classroom that works has been interesting."

"The Blue Ridge staff is fantastic. I could not ask for a better place to work. The staff is supportive in every way. It's one big family."



"I wake up every morning excited to go to work. There are some days that are harder than others but I wouldn't change it for anything!"