



Diane Mires

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Diane Mires

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

GRADE: 4th Grade

Q. What are your students working on as 4th Grade Spring WASL testing nears?

A. We are working on expository writing. We've covered a lot of narrative writing earlier this year. These are the two areas of writing we are responsible for in the fourth grade. We just finished number sense, division and multiplication and now we're trying to get them some geometry concepts. We also just finished studying rocks and minerals.

Q. What strategies do you use to prep students for the WASL?

A. We prepare all year long. Our fourth grade team always considers how what we do is going to help them with the WASL. I also believe in having fun with learning so the students really don't know they are preparing for the WASL. It just happens.

Q. Has the WASL been good for kids?

A. Absolutely. I think it has been good for both teachers and students. It has made me a much better teacher because I have had to be more focused and purposeful.

Q. Do you have any frustrations regarding the WASL?

A. I have a problem with it being the only way kids are measured. People only see a score printed in a newspaper. I wish they could come into my classroom and really see how much these students are learning and how hard they are working.

COMMENTS FROM GREEN PARK PRINCIPAL MIKE LAMBERT:

"Reading about a trip to 'Lost Lake' in Diane Mires class, be prepared to take an inventory on the hiking supplies you will need as you munch on dried fruit and jerky! Mrs. Mires utilizes students' senses and background knowledge to make learning interesting and relevant. Diane's love for children, coupled with her creativity and great sense of humor, provides a positive learning environment where all students can succeed."

Over →

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM DIANE MIRES' CLASS:



COMMENTS: FROM DIANE...

"I like to have students reflect on their own work. When you get them involved that's when it really internalizes. Even on report cards I'll have them score themselves in the social development and work habits areas. They realize where their strengths are and where they need to be better."

"It's important to keep learning fun. I think you need to make a connection with the kids -- that's number one. If you do that they are going to respond better to what you put out and still like coming to school everyday."



"We use journals so students can take more ownership in their projects. They also use them as a resource to provide information as they work on their projects. All kids can be successful when you have projects."