



Tod Crouter

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Tod Crouter

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

GRADE LEVEL: 5th grade

Q. What role do you have in getting the staff ready for the new Edison school?

A. I am one of three teachers who is piloting an electronic white board (StarBoard) this school year. I am using it in my current classroom and will be sharing what I learn with other staff members as we get ready to move to the new building.

Q. Why is this important?

A. Our staff will need resource people to help them. Staff will be trying to use this new equipment and learn how to apply it to their lessons and planning. If they don't know how to work the equipment, they'll be able to come to a neighbor for help.

Q. What has excited you most about using this new technology?

A. The StarBoard helps me project student work and text we are working on to a large screen. Kids are more engaged when we use this technology. I've enjoyed projecting the internet and Google maps on the large screen too. We're just scratching the surface as to how to use this technology, but I'm very excited.

Q. How have you adapted to having your classroom near the construction project?

A. We made friends with the contractors. They gave us a tour of the site and we were able to meet a lot of the workers. It's been loud and dusty. Sometimes I need to turn up the volume on my microphone or just take a moment to wait it out. We just find ways to adapt and make it work.

COMMENTS FROM EDISON PRINCIPAL NANCY WITHYCOMBE:

"Tod is a master teacher who has high expectations academically and socially for his students. He is a strong social studies teacher and shares his passion for history with students. Tod is respected by teachers and parents. Students know that he's a no nonsense kind of guy, but one can sometimes hear Barney imitations sneaking into his instructional repertoire."

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM TOD CROUTER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TOD...

"Edison 5th grade students take social studies and science classes from another teacher to help them get ready for middle school. We focus on basic skills like math facts and reading comprehension. We also help them learn how to stay organized by keeping workbooks and assignment calendars."



"Crouter also enjoys photography and last year made a film with the fifth graders that was shown at their farewell assembly. He enjoys working with 5th grade students because they are mature enough to take on more sophisticated projects."

Fifth grade teaching partner **Genie Huntemann** describes Cruter:

"He's like a hard candy with a soft center. It's that balance of seriousness and humor that contributes to the great experience students have in his classroom."