



Stephanie Gomsrud

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Stephanie Gomsrud

SCHOOL: Opportunity Program

GRADES: High School (Alternative)

CLASS: Core Subjects (contract-based)

Q. How does the Opportunity Program work?

A. Students here work on one to three classes at a time and they meet one-on-one with an instructor for at least one hour a week. Students at Opportunity have the same requirements as students attending Walla Walla High School.

Q. What courses are offered at Opportunity?

A. All the core subjects are offered -- math, science, social studies and English. Some electives are also offered through the Digital Learning Commons (online).

Q. What is contract-based?

A. Students and teachers come to an agreement as to the amount of work that they are going to complete and the timeline for completing that work. Generally our students complete a semester class in eight weeks.

Q. How do you determine the best educational plan for each student?

A. We never teach the same class twice. Each class is tailored to the individual student's strengths and weaknesses. One advantage we have is we are able to start where the students are and advance from there.

Q. Why does the one-on-one instructional model help kids learn and build trust?

A. Some of them have had negative experiences in school and for many this is the first time they feel like they belong and this is a key piece in helping them learn.

COMMENTS FROM ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS PRINCIPAL JIM SPORLEDER:

I appreciate Stephanie's professionalism and commitment to her students and the Opportunity Program. She is an important member of the team of teachers that work with our alternative students to meet their specific academic and social needs.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
STEPHANIE GOMSRUD'S OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAM CLASS:



COMMENTS: FROM STEPHANIE...

"It's hard to stereotype the typical Opportunity Program student. We have students who have been home-schooled, who have not been successful at Walla Walla, who have had chronic illnesses, and those who are parents who need a varied schedule."



"I have a problem with a large class environment. I can't really concentrate a lot of time. The one-on-one teaching allows me to get help when I need it."

Michael Vance - Senior

"Stephanie has participated in our Late Start Wednesdays collaboration with her peers at Walla Walla High School to align our curriculum at Opportunity with the same expectations that we have for all secondary math students."

Jim Sporleder