



April Brown

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: April Brown

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary

GRADE LEVEL: 1st Grade

Q. What strategies do you use to help first grade students get off to a good start?

A. We work on routines. We build on the basics: how to sit down, how to raise your hand, and how to write your name. These might seem mindless to an adult, but they are really important and our students don't know these coming into school.

Q. How do you communicate with parents?

A. I have a classroom website. I do a lot of e-mails to parents and have a monthly newsletter. I also try to call home if there was a really high moment and unfortunately if there was a low moment. It's important to have good parent communications.

Q. How do you determine a student's academic standing?

A. We have a great team at Berney that comes together at the beginning of the year to determine where a student is academically. We look at their reading scores to create flexible groupings. It's constant and time consuming, but it's worth it.

Q. How do you help students learn technology?

A. Our grade level technology requirements have changed and students are expected to do more. Students need to be able to navigate a tool bar in WORD. We allow computer lab time to do the exploration and learn more computer skills.

COMMENTS FROM BERNEY PRINCIPAL DAVID TALLEY:

"April is an excellent teacher. She serves on the Berney social committee and has received training in GLAD this past summer. April always has a positive attitude and does a great job working with her students."

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM APRIL BROWN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM APRIL...

"My true love is working with children. They teach me so much. I love those 'ah hah' moments when it clicks and they say 'I get it'. It's the natural high of my job. A true adrenaline rush."

"Writing is a huge part of learning and it is linked to reading. It's important for students to put their ideas down on paper and begin writing sentences."



"I use the information I get from assessments to guide my instruction. It tells me what I need to teach and how I need to group my kids. It also helps me get parents accurate information so they know what they can do at home."

