



Donna Hernandez

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Donna Hernandez

SCHOOL: Sharpstein Elementary School

GRADE LEVEL: Kindergarten (Spanish)

PROGRAM: Dual Language

Q. What is the daily schedule for students in the dual language program?

A. **AM:** Numbers, singing, reading, writing, English as a Second Language (ESL), Spanish as a Second Language (SSL), positive action behavior education program and pull-out for: Music, Library, PE

PM: Social Studies, math and learning-centered play time with their partner

Q. How do you make sure the five and six-year-old students are learning the language?

A. You have to use a lot of pictures and your hands and expressions. Sometimes you have to throw in an English word. But, within two months it's just Spanish. They can get it. It's amazing how much growth we see.

Q. How long does it take students to fluently learn the language?

A. Studies say seven years -- that's fluent, which means reading and writing. The Spanish speaking students can converse in English at the end of the year because the world is English dominated. English speaking students can usually say some phrases in English by the end of the year, but it depends on their personalities.

Q. How do you make sure the students learn content while acquiring the language?

A. They get all of the content in their reading and writing classes in two languages. For example, with the life cycle science project I am working on in my class, they are writing and reading about it in Mrs. Morgan's class in English. They are getting the content in two languages, so they won't be falling behind.

COMMENTS FROM SHARPSTEIN PRINCIPAL LAURE QUARESMA:

"Donna uses her creativity to make learning a second language meaningful for all of her students. Examples include puppets, chants, festivals, cooking, songs, dance and travel around the world. Donna is a true professional and dedicated to language learning as well as cultural awareness."

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
DONNA HERNANDEZ'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM DONNA...

"It's really important to communicate with your teaching partner in the dual program. You have to be flexible. Mrs. Morgan is a terrific partner. If she says she is going to do something, she does it. I don't know where she gets her energy!"

"We are learning about the four seasons through the cycle of the apple tree. This is a part of our Life Sciences unit. Students are learning a base that everything has a life cycle. It will help them as they go up in grade levels."



"English speaking students partner with Spanish speaking students in Sharpstein's Dual Language Program. Students become friends at a young age and help each other learn. They also play and interact with each other during class."

