



Kate Stevenson

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kate Stevenson

SCHOOL: Blue Ridge Elementary

GRADE: First Grade (Transitional Bilingual Program)

Q. What are your students working on in class?

A. We're still trying to keep it strong in math as we have a new program this year that focuses heavily on computations. We do small group rotations where they do workbook assignments, play games and participate in activities that reinforce their learning.

Q. Why do you have an old-fashioned bath tub in your classroom?

A. That's usually the first thing people notice when they come in my classroom. I was a literacy major in college. I believe students at this age need to develop a love for reading. My former first grade teacher had a bath tub in her class and she was my favorite teacher. It has soft pillows and is really comfortable for students to do their independent reading. It makes it very special for them.

Q. What expectations do you have for your students?

A. My former first grade teacher was very enthusiastic, but she had high expectations for us. I'm trying to model her example with my students. They need to know it's a loving, safe place here, but they're expected to learn.

Q. This is your second year as a teacher. How is it going?

A. I love it. The support I get at Blue Ridge and throughout the district is amazing. Judy Peasley has been terrific. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

COMMENTS FROM BLUE RIDGE PRINCIPAL CONNIE TAYLOR-RANDALL:

"Kate's enthusiasm for second language learners and her proficiency in Spanish and English allow her to give our Blue Ridge bilingual first graders a great start. Her room is a rainbow of rich cultural colors that are as inviting as her vibrant personality. She sets high expectations for student learning and her students made significant growth in all content areas last year."

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
KATE STEVENSON'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM KATE...

"I went with my church on mission trips to Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico and was able to use Spanish and see it applied. When I came back to the states, I volunteered in a bilingual classroom as a junior in high school. It just clicked! I then went on to pursue my degree in bilingual education."

"Public education is an excellent opportunity for students to embrace the diversity that is reflected in their community. It opens doors to new ideas and ways of thinking."



"I talk to some of my friends I went to college with who are now teachers and not all of them have the support I have in Walla Walla. There is such a high level of professionalism here, it helps you be successful. I love being a teacher."