



Chris Ferenz

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Chris Ferenz

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

GRADES: 11-12

SUBJECT: AP CALCULUS

Q. How does Advanced Placement Calculus compare to college level courses?

A. Basically students are getting the first semester of a college level Calculus course. It provides them an opportunity in May to take an AP test and earn college credit.

Q. How many students are enrolled in this class?

A. For only the second time in my seven years at Wa-Hi we have two AP Calculus classes, with 46 total students and 34 are taking the AP test.

Q. What do you do to help get the students ready for the test?

A. Today we are doing a 10 minute exercise which is just some quick concepts relating to the derivative. We have four more concepts that we need to cover in the next week and a half. I'll build in some review each day and then I hold Sunday and week night evening two-hour reviews for about three weeks before the test. I usually get about 25 kids for these sessions.

Q. What is the format of the AP test?

A. AP tests are timed so many of our assessments during the year are in the AP test format. For half of the questions students get to use calculators and the other half they don't. What I hear from students is there are no surprises on the AP test after taking AP Calculus at Wa-Hi. Usually about 70 percent end up passing.

COMMENTS FROM WA-HI PRINCIPAL DARCY WEISNER:

"Chris Ferenz adheres to ethical principles that reflect the highest standards of organizational and individual behavior. He is a champion for our vision of becoming the best high school. Chris displays a strong commitment to Wa-Hi's mission and values. Chris effectively communicates our culture, values and beliefs. Chris is committed to honesty and integrity."

Over →

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
CHRIS FERENZ'S CLASS:



COMMENTS: FROM CHRIS...

"You have to stay on your toes when working with gifted learners because they see everything and pay attention to everything. Which is good because you can really narrow their focus and ask them to be highly critical. You can get them to discover things quicker than a lot of the other students."

"I like how Mr. Ferenz gives us practice tests and goes in depth on everything. In the end we are ready for the AP test."

Kyle Eggers (above)



"Math can be really difficult for some students. I love seeing the ah ha moments when they know they get it. I really enjoy relating what we are doing to something they are doing outside of class."