



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Cami Coers

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: PE/Health Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 4 years

Q. What are students in your health class learning this session?

A. This week we are covering emotional, physical and social health. Today we are focusing on the effects of alcohol on the brain. This material helps prepare them to be better citizens. It also helps them get ready for high school and life.

Q. How much health education do middle school students receive annually?

A. Our district requirement is four weeks of health education annually. Our physical education teachers rotate into health classes throughout the year until we all meet the four week requirement.

Q. Why is middle school a critical age for physical and emotional health education?

A. I know there are drugs in our community and I let my students know I'm not naive to what they are exposed to. I'll even use scare tactics to get their attention. Today I showed pictures of tobacco users. I try to do whatever I can to let them know the consequences that come with using drugs and alcohol.

Q. Why do you encourage a lot of classroom discussions during this unit?

A. Many of the students have never had a chance to discuss these issues with their peers so often our discussions are student-driven. I do not let them talk about personal experiences they may have witnessed in their own families, but we talk openly about issues related to their emotional, physical and social health.

Q. How have your school experiences helped you relate to today's students?

A. I believe in developing positive relationships with my students. I was bullied in middle school so I share my experiences with them. I know my teachers had a positive impact on my school years and I want them to feel comfortable coming to me if they need someone to talk to.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM CAMI COERS' CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM CAMI...

At first some of my students dread coming to health class. But once we get started the mood begins to change. I've had many students by the end of the week not want to go back to PE class. I often reward the students and use a lot of positive reinforcement.

Mira Gobel and my mom (Wa-Hi teacher Gretchen Baker) had a big influence in my life in helping me become a teacher. I have discovered it's my calling and I truly love it.



I love teaching health. It allows me to get back into the classroom and use a lot of GLAD teaching strategies. I get to know my students in a different environment.