



Janifer Sams

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Janifer Sams

SCHOOL: Blue Ridge Elementary

Position: Third Grade Teacher

Years in District: 17 years

Q. Why is it important for your students to understand and use line plots?

A. A line plot is a way to use symbols to record information and read the data more quickly.

Q. What skills are they learning through this lesson?

A. The world our students live in tries to be organized, so understanding how to use line plots or bar graphs is a skill they will be able to use down the road whether reading a newspaper or in their jobs.

Q. How does putting students in small groups help break down language barriers?

A. Working in small groups takes away many of the language barriers. We are able to group students if they need help with their language skills. Math is a universal language, so doing line plots and different types of mathematics is a place where our second language learners can really excel.

Q. How do you use assessment information in your teaching?

A. I use data every day to dictate what I do in the classroom. I've talked with my students about how the data they are gathering for their line plots is similar to how I'm collecting data about their writing, reading and mathematics to dictate what I'm going to do with them. It's the data that drives my instruction.

Q. How do you involve parents in their child's education?

A. I keep my door open and try to be accessible to parents. I call parents when their child is excelling and when their child has a challenge. When I see parents out in the public, I will go up and talk to them and say hi. I do whatever I can to establish a relationship and keep the lines of communication open.

Over →

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
JANIFER SAM'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM JANIFER..

At Blue Ridge we are a huge family and everybody tries really hard to make people feel welcome. Even though we have some barriers related to language and poverty, I feel we have created an atmosphere where parents feel like they can ask for help.

Technology plays a key role in the work we do. We use calculators, document cameras, websites, and other computer programs to help students learn.



Every day I get to touch the lives of children and help make a difference in their lives. When I hear them say - 'I get it' - that's what makes it all worthwhile.