



Karan Jamieson

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Karan Jamieson

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Special Education Teacher

Years in District: 2 years

Q. How many students do you have in your Special Education English class?

A. This is a multi-grade level class and I have two blocks. There are eight students in one block and nine in the other. My students do not have physical handicaps, they have documented learning disabilities that make learning hard. Some of their learning disabilities include dyslexia and problems with fluency and decoding.

Q. What grade level are your students reading at?

A. Most of my students read at about a 5th grade level. Our goal is to get them to an 8th grade level. Students with learning disabilities like my students typically level out the older they get. You see more sharp gains in elementary school, but once they get to high school it's a slow climb.

Q. Why was your ancient Egypt project so successful?

A. Our Egypt project started as a research paper and a writing exercise. The students began using technology to do their research and soon discovered there was so much information about this topic. The project then evolved into a public Tea Party featuring Egyptian food, student-made artifacts, PowerPoint presentations and information stations.

The hands-on activities really helped the student connect to the information they were learning. By having adults come in and see what they created and show an interest in their learning, the students felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It was empowering.

Q. Why is experiencing success so important?

A. School has not come easy for my students so it's important for them to have success and feel good about themselves. This project has motivated them to try even harder in school.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
KARAN JAMIESON'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM KARAN...

We want our students to be productive citizens and live successful and independent lives. They all could go on to college, but many will go right into the work place. They need to be able to fill out job applications, read and communicate.

We work with our students to set goals so they can experience what it feels like to be successful. It's empowering to feel success.



At the high school we work very hard to make the flow from special education to general education fluid. It's our job to provide the necessary support for them to be successful.