



Angie Gardea

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Angie Gardea

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: LAP Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 12 years

Q. Which students take the intensive math class at Pioneer Middle School?

A. This class is for students in the 25th percentile and below in math who are not receiving services in Special Education. We typically have eight to 10 students in each period. They are in this class for a nine week quarter. We meet for 60 minutes a day, five days a week.

Q. What are your goals for these students?

A. We are trying to fill in some of the gaps in their learning so we can get them to grade level. When students hear they are in a special class their confidence level just plummets because they feel they are different or strange.

We work really hard to just be honest with them and let them know there is nothing wrong. They have missed something along way and we are trying to help them get that back.

Q. What strategies do you use to help them learn?

A. We are very active throughout the period and we keep them moving. We will play math games and have a lot of discussions. There is a lot of interaction and we build a tremendous amount of trust over the nine week quarter.

Q. Why do the math games connect with your students?

A. A lot of our kids are "doers." They can see something visually and they can hear something auditorily, but when it's kinesthetic and they have their hands on it they just do better. They are very competitive and want to win so this style of learning just comes a little quicker to them.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
ANGIE GARDEA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM ANGIE...

We have actually had students request to come back to us and opt out of their exploratory class. We don't know if it's the games or that they know we really like them, but we have had these requests.

We find the students make tremendous gains in this class. Our numbers are low so we can give them the support they need to improve their skills.



A lot of our students will ask to check out games to take home and play with siblings and parents. We do a lot of parent communication through email and telephones to keep parents informed.