

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Cindy Palmer

SCHOOL: Homelink (at Berney)

Position: Writing Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 6 years

Q. What are Homelink students in your writing class working on?

A. We are working on a multiple paragraph piece. The students have to pull a prompt from a prompt box. They have three tries and then must select one they know the most about. Then they do their planning of the writing process from beginning to end.

This process includes working together as a community of writers, peer editing, teacher review and then bringing it all they way to publish.

Q. Why is it important for classmates to critique their fellow student's writing?

A. Many people think of writing as an independent process, but I think of it as a community process. I believe students learn from discussing their ideas and processing together. I think the peer input is critical for their growth as a writer. The social aspect of Homelink is important for their personal and academic growth.

Q. How often do you see your students?

A. I typically see students one or two hours a week for each class. I teach six grade levels of writing. Since writing skills are so different, I could see us moving toward multiple grade levels in one class.

I really see it as we have writers and non-writers. You might have a fourth grade student who is a really strong writer and a 7th grader who is struggling. I determine what their needs are and teach to that need. I try not to give them something they don't need.

Q. Why is Homelink a good fit for home school students?

A. We need choices for families. Homelink offers an academic supplement and enrichment. Social development is also a key element.

Over

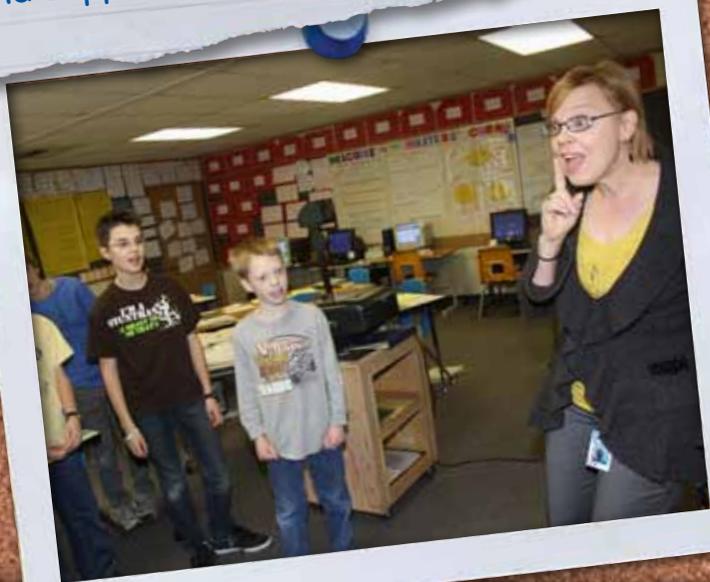
MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
CINDY PALMER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM CINDY...

Parents appreciate having a writing teacher work with their children. Writing is a difficult subject for parents to teach. I use a lot of GLAD teaching strategies to engage students and support their learning.

Every parent knows their child socially, emotionally and academically like no one else. There is a diversity of reasons why parents are home schooling their children.



Some parents home school to work on values and character traits. Sometimes it's an academic or health issue. It could be a social or emotional issue where the parents feel their child needs more time at home.