



Lisa Braddock

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Lisa Braddock

Position: 1st Grade Teacher

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 22 years

Q. What activities are your students working on this month?

A. Our first grade students in the dual language program are covering a lot of subjects. I teach math in English to both language groups. We are building on our addition skills and count on strategies.

First grade is a time when we focus on building an enthusiasm for math. We look at math as puzzle. We challenge students to determine what they know and what they still need to discover. They are truly becoming mathematicians.

Q. How is the dual language program evolving at Edison?

A. When we started this program three years ago it was pretty overwhelming to think of what we were trying to accomplish. But each year we take a step closer to what the program is supposed to look like. We have a better understanding of what we are trying to master with students in terms of their language acquisition. It's a learning process.

Q. What are some of the goals of the dual language program?

A. We want to create a language rich learning environment. Most of our native Spanish speaking students have the basic skills to communicate in English. We are trying to build on these skills to develop a great academic understanding of the language. With all students we ensure they understand the content no matter which language it is being taught in. We strive to help them develop a higher level vocabulary in both languages.

Q. Why is it important to develop strong fundamentals for learning at this age?

A. It's important for them to learn how to be a learner: How to follow directions, take in information and ask questions. We are setting the tone for how to learn.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM LISA BRADDOCK'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LISA...
My students are supporting one another on a daily basis. They are building really strong friendships and connections. I believe this is the most powerful piece of the dual language program. We want this to continue as they go through our school system.



I make a lot of calls home to parents - primarily to talk about the good work their child is doing. I want them to know we are a team working to do what is best for their child.



We are connected as a staff which makes coming to work a pleasure. We support each other and focus on doing what is best for our students and families.