



Marybeth Norby

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Marybeth Norby

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

Position: Music Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 21 years

Q. What are some of the music skills you want your students to develop?

A. I want my students to be able to read music notes and rhythms. I also want them to enjoy different styles of music. I want them to be exposed to different types of music as well. It is my hope they will want to learn more about music as they go through their school years.

Q. How does music education support academic gains in other content areas?

A. It's pretty simple -- music makes you smarter. There is endless data to support this statement. It has been proven students who have taken music, in any form, score better on tests and do better in school. For example, reading rhythms makes you sub-divide so it supports the development of math skills.

Q. How does your involvement in the Walla Walla Symphony help in the classroom?

A. When 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students come over to Cordiner Hall for the Walla Walla Symphony Young People's Concert, they see the foundation they are learning in elementary school is just a starting point.

They see how they could be a professional musician. When they see me on stage performing percussions, they see how the music they are learning is important.

Q. How does it make you feel to see your former students advance their skills?

A. It makes me feel proud for them. I can't help myself from counting the students who were mine. It is so special for me to see what amazing musicians they have turned into.

They have gained skills in our school system which will stay with them throughout their lives. I enjoy watching their parents as well. They are so proud of their children and their accomplishments.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
MARYBETH NORBY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM MARYBETH...

Our PTA is so amazing. They donated thousands of dollars worth of instruments to support our music program. We use these instruments all the time in our program to help students learn. I can't thank the PTA enough for their generous support!

I interact with all the children in the school. It can be challenging to get to know all the kindergarten and first graders. But before long, they are all mine.



Music class is a nice break from the traditional classroom. I keep the students moving and active. Music class is a place where students can have fun, gain confidence and just be themselves.