



Colleen Chamberlain

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Colleen Chamberlain

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

Position: 3rd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 7 years

Q. What are some of the science lessons your students are working on in class?

A. We are working on our plant development unit. Our bees are pollinating our plants and they are just about ready to flower.

Q. What are some of the learning activities your students do with this unit?

A. We look at the parts of the bee and the plant. The students do a lot of drawing and diagraming. We also go through the life cycle of both the plant and the bee.

Q. How does growing your own plants help the students learn?

A. It's a great way to hold their attention. We integrate math through daily measuring. Growing our own plants allows students to see first-hand the life cycle of the plant.

We harvest the seeds in the end so we can plant them again. We also try to include water color art as much as possible.

Q. What strategies do you use to help students who are struggling?

A. First I find out where they went astray to determine if they have the necessary skills. For example, if they struggle with number sense then multiplication will be difficult. I always go back to what they should know and see if they have the foundational skills. Sometimes we just need to put in more time and practice.

Q. How did the National Board Teaching Certificate process help you?

A. This program stressed the importance of getting to know your students on a personal level. It's important to know their interests and passions, what toys they like to play with and what stories they are talking about. It's also important to know about their families. It's very natural and it can help you motivate them to learn.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM COLLEEN CHAMBERLAIN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM COLLEEN...  
Green Park is a great school. We have nine National Board Certified teachers here. We have a supportive climate to work in. It's so rewarding. To be able to hang out with these people each day -- it's the best job!

I send home a weekly letter to let parents see what we worked on. I have a lot of volunteers come in the classroom. I send emails and make calls home.



I taught in Milton Freewater for eight years before coming to Walla Walla. I started in the Resource Room here before moving into the 3rd grade four years ago.