



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Beth Clearman

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Explorer Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 11 years

Q. Who produces the Garrison Middle School student newspaper?

A. Approximately 40 seventh and eighth grade students in the Explorer program publish a school newspaper called "The Combustible Lemon" as part of our Language Arts curriculum. I team teach this class with Marcia Follett. We meet three days a week to work on the paper. We also have about 10 students in the afterschool Journalism Club who contribute to the newspaper. The print version is published quarterly and the online version is produced nine times a school year.

Q. What role do the teachers play in the publication?

A. We are advisors. We pick students who are responsible to be Editors-in-Chief and we turn it over to them. We help the students if they need to email staff or talk to the principal about getting permission to hang posters or approve certain activities. The students design the paper and write the articles. They are self sufficient and passionate about writing.

Q. How will this experience help students as they go on to high school?

A. The students use Creative Design software. This is the same software used at Wa-Hi. We try to match our program with the high school. If students want to continue journalism at the high school, they have the technical and writing skills to excel.

Q. Why does the newspaper appeal to students?

A. The students want their classmates to read the newspaper and not just gloss over articles because they didn't have an interest. They make sure every single page has something the students want to read. They are getting good at judging their audience by going out and asking the student body what they want in the newspaper.

Over

**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
BETH'S CLASS:**



COMMENTS FROM BETH...

One of the ways kids become better writers is by being prolific writers. They are producing several hundred articles every quarter on a variety of subjects. The skills they are developing closely follow the state standards for writing.

I was born in Fremont, California. I graduated from Whitman College and earned my teaching certificate from Seattle Pacific University.



I have been a teacher for 18 years. My husband Dave is a teacher at Vista Hermosa at Broetje Orchards. I have two sons who are seven and four. I like to read and I am a die-hard sports fan.