



Brandy Martinez

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Brandy Martinez

SCHOOL: Sharpstein Elementary

Position: 3rd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 3 years

Q. What strategies do you use to help students learn math?

A. We are connecting the word “difference” with subtractions. We are doing a subtraction war game to make it more fun. This helps students remember to use the correct academic language. The games also help the students make abstract connections.

Q. How has becoming an AVID school helped students?

A. As a school we are trying to promote college. Classrooms have adopted a particular college and we are the Oregon Ducks. We have Oregon Duck pillows, banners, signs and logos throughout the classroom.

Pulling in the Ducks theme has helped get the college language in the classroom and build a college background that some kids may not have at home. We’ve had fun with it. Another fifth grade classroom is the Oregon State Beavers and we have a little rivalry going on with the students right now.

Q. How do you as the English only teacher interact with the dual language program?

A. A couple of times a week, Julie Schisler and I switch math groups. This is a way to integrate the students. Once a week we mix all three groups together and allow the students to mingle, work on the computers, and work on social skills lessons. This helps kids get to know each other and improve the school climate.

Q. What skills will students learn in third grade?

A. We are pushing multiplication facts and writing. We want students to develop writing structure and paragraphing. We are learning about different plants and in science will study objects in the sky. Third grade is a great year because it builds a lot of concepts that students will continue to use in fourth and fifth grades.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
BRANDY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM BRANDY...

I am originally from Portland, but I graduated from Walla Walla High School. I went to collage at Walla Walla University. I have four school-age children and my husband is a network engineer at the Washington State Penitentiary.

We are a really tight community at Sharpstein and we promote unity. Even though we are a dual language school, we always find a way to come together. I am proud to be here.



We invite parents to work in the classroom and have many volunteers who come in to help our students. We also use all forms of traditional communication to keep parents connected.