



Elizabeth Razo

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Elizabeth Razo

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

Position: 2nd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 8 years

Q. How does your writing project using animals support learning?

A. The students are doing an animal report as part of the writing process. The students select an animal to write about and then brainstorm the key ideas they want to share. By choosing their own animal it provides personal choice in the process. This makes the project more interesting for them and they tend to focus more on the assignment.

Q. Why is it important to gradually transition your students to English?

A. English is the second language for my students. It takes time to learn a new language so we teach the content in their native language so they don't fall behind.

My second grade students learn Science from Mrs. Baker in English. Most of them have basic conversational English skills at this time, but the academic language development takes longer. We transition into English mid-way through the third grade. We focus on teaching the content in their native language in their early years to provide for a smoother transition to English as they get older.

Q. What are other benefits you see in the transitional bilingual program?

A. The students take pride in their native culture, language and heritage. This program helps them become biliterate and biculture. This respect for their culture will carry on for generations to come.

Q. How is this model of instruction different than when you were a child?

A. I graduated from Walla Walla High School. Spanish is my first language. When I was a child, I was fully immersed in English at school. It made it very difficult for me to learn the language. I also struggled with cultural changes. I believe offering a program like we have at Green Park has been a positive change.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
RAZO'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM ELIZABETH...

I know what my students are going through in learning a new language. I want to be a role model for my students. I want them to see it can be done with a lot of hard work.

Students in the bilingual program are learning the same content and are held to the same standards. They are just learning it in their native language.



Our parents understand the importance of their children learning English. With this program, parents understand learning the English language will come as their children grow.