



Heather Nelson

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Heather Nelson

SCHOOL: Homelink

Position: Curriculum Library Specialist

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 7 years

Q. What is your role at Homelink?

A. I am the Homelink Curriculum Library Specialist. I also do a little bit of teaching and mentoring of parents in the program.

I do all the check in and out of learning materials. I have established a computerized check out system so all of our materials are accounted for electronically. Our entire inventory is now supported through the use of technology, rather than paper and pencil. It is much easier for our parents to search and find the materials they need. I have a three-year-old and three-month-old at home so I work part-time.

Q. What is the Homelink program?

A. The program is a parent partner program located at Berney Elementary. Our home school parents do the core teaching and instruction at home in reading, writing, social studies and math. The students come to our campus twice a week for the arts, PE, YMCA, and science. Students complete approximately 20 hours per week at home and then our classes at Berney take up the rest of their time.

Q. What type of feedback do you get from parents about Homelink?

A. Our parents love the program. I believe the Homelink program is the perfect mixture of all learning opportunities. Students can be at home, one-on-one with mom or dad. They have our program for the socialization piece and all the enrichment subjects which are harder to offer at home.

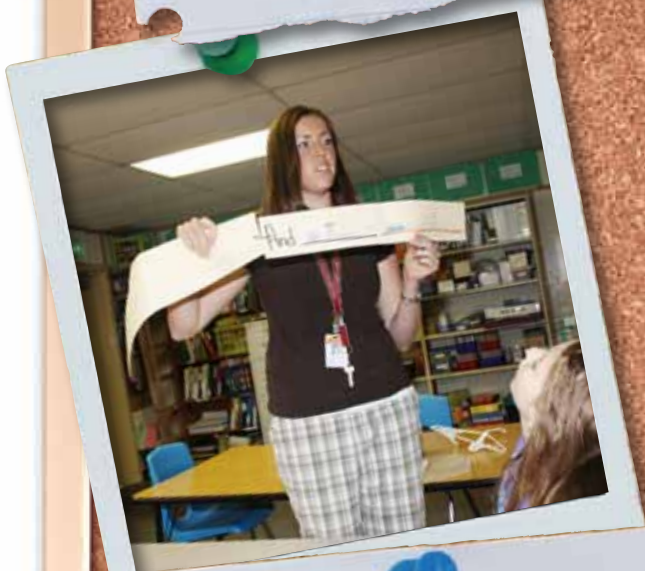
Q. How has the YMCA partnership improved Homelink?

A. We are at the YMCA Mondays and Wednesdays in the afternoon and Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning. The program has been a very positive addition for Homelink. Kids are absolutely loving the rock climbing wall and all the sports and swimming that goes on with our YMCA partnership.

Over



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



**COMMENTS FROM HEATHER...**

Our home school parents have a program called WINGS. It is an online program which provides learning opportunities for their children to get their "wings" and fly. It has an instructional piece, a schedule, and goals for the year which students should be meeting each month.

We would like to eventually have our own space so we have more room to grow and adequate classroom space we need to support our program.



Communication is a huge piece between our staff and parents. We rely on the students to communicate. This helps everyone stay on track to reach the goals we have established.