



# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Laura Reiter

SCHOOL: Prospect Point Elementary

Position: Kindergarten Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 26 years

Q. Why do students rotate to different teachers for math and reading?

A. We call it flexible grouping. We let our students know that all of the kindergarten teachers are their teachers. It's a structured time for 60 minutes. We work hard to target student needs through instruction in both reading and math. Throughout this process we always consider where a student is currently at with their skill development.

We know math and reading can happen throughout the day, but flexible group allows for targeted time for this instruction. We look at the reading and math standards beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade. These standards are how we base our instruction.

Q. How do you manage getting to know so many students?

A. It begins with establishing a relationship with the student. This is the key. When they enter your classroom they need to know it is a safe and risk-free environment for learning. If I get a new group of students I take the time to get to know their personalities so they feel good about being here.

Q. What gains are you seeing in reading development at this time of the year?

A. We are seeing tons of growth and kids really excited about reading. We look at the data on a regular basis and also check to see how their attitude is toward learning. It's an exciting time.

Q. How do you involve parents in their child's education?

A. Again, it's a relationship building process. We need to let parents know their kids are great and the work they are doing with them is great. This continues throughout the school year. We want them to continue reading with their children to help model a love for reading and learning.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
LAURA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LAURA...

I believe there needs to be more celebration. Children progress continuously even when it might not show up in data. With such an emphasis on testing and data, we can lose sight of the little gains we see each day.

I see exciting things happening everyday in my classroom. We are all committed to ensuring our students can be the best they can be.



We often get compared to other countries and other educational systems. We are a melting pot in America and as diverse as can be. We take every child where they are and help them be successful.