



Laural Bohnet

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Laural Bohnet

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: Language Arts Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 18 years

Q. What are your students studying as we near the end of the school year?

A. We are working on poetry. This includes poetic elements, imagery, and all the other characteristics which make up a poem. The first activity we do in this unit is note taking. Students identify the elements within the poem and finally they write their own poems.

Q. How do you make poetry interesting for a middle school student?

A. Surprisingly, a lot of students like poetry. I believe this interest comes from music. Kids who truly enjoy music tend to really connect to poetry. A lot of students write their own music and poetry is another outlet for this creative writing.

Q. How do skills they are learning through writing poetry transfer to other areas?

A. Poetry requires creative writing. Good creative writing creates a visual image in the reader's mind. These skills transfer well to other types of writing such as technical writing. Many subjects, including math, science and social studies, require students to have good writing skills.

Q. How do you stay connected with parents?

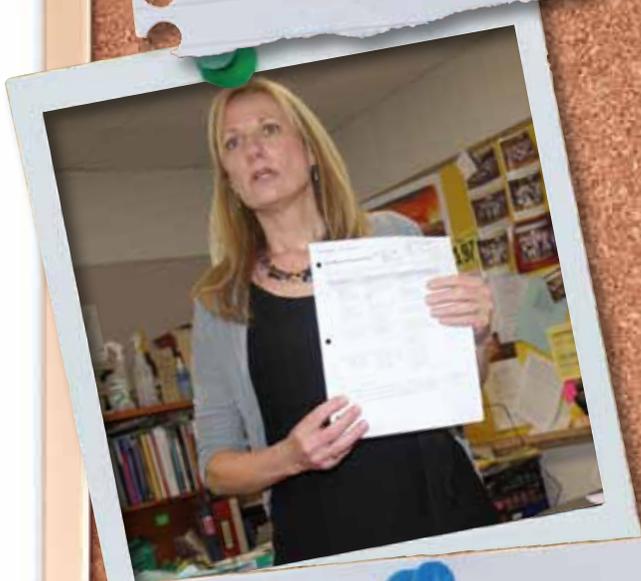
A. I use telephone calls to make connections to parents. I'll often call to celebrate a success story. I will also call if their child is falling behind. Telephone calls are a great tool to stay connected.

Everyone is busy these days and that includes parents and teachers. If everyone who is concerned about the child is involved, including parents and teachers, the student will be more successful.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
LAURAL'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LAURAL...

People who don't have kids in school anymore probably don't feel connected to the younger generation. These are great kids. They are nice, helpful and kind. Our community should be very proud of our students.

Pioneer is a great place to work. Our staff all have the same focus. We want to see our kids grow and succeed. We all enjoy each other along the way.



High school transition is a primary goal in 8th grade. We do whatever we can to help these students be successful. Rigor, high standards and a mind set do your best are areas I focus on with my students.