



Ronda Gabbard

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Ronda Gabbard

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

Position: Music Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 6 years

Q. What do you expect from kindergarten students in the first year of your program?

A. I try to get them comfortable with their singing voices. We begin with rhythms and reading notes. I want them to begin developing a love for music.

Q. How do you get so much out of five-year-olds?

A. The use of instruments is a great way to get them involved. They love to play any type of instrument and they'll do about anything to do it. I try to get them on instruments once or twice a week.

Q. How does music help students with their other subjects?

A. The music program is a great resource for the entire school. I tell my students music is a lot like math. The notes are like fractions. I always tell my students if you struggle in math, music will help you out, and if you struggle in music, math will help you out.

Some of my students don't read fluently, but they can read their songs without any hesitation.

Q. How has the new Edison facility improved the music program?

A. This facility is amazing. It allows me to do things I've never been able to do. The technology is incredible. We recently had a white board replaced and I was lost for a moment without having this technology available to me.

The music room is large and has terrific natural light. We have risers in the classroom. They fold out and are adjustable so students can dance, stand or sit. We are so thankful for this top notch school.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
GABBARD'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM RONDA...

I direct vocals for high school musicals and see my former students shine on stage as high school students. I'm so proud of them. It is important to begin teaching students at a young age so their confidence continues to grow.

I work with Edison teachers to support what they are doing in their classrooms. I also try to expose my students to many languages.



I have students for six years in this program. I get very close to them. I try to share my passion for music with my students each day. The love of music lasts forever.