



Terry Carlsen

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Terry Carlsen

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Science Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 8 years

Q. Why are your 9th grade honors class students learning about forest fires?

A. The unit deals with fire ecology. It examines how different organisms interact with each other and how humans interact with their environment. In the fire ecology unit, we see how fire plays a major role in ecological systems. We do an activity which shows the increase of forest fires and wild fires during the last part of the 20th century and we examine data which supports fire management and strategies that allow natural burning to occur. Students then discuss their findings like they would in a scientific community.

Q. What skills will your students learn this year?

A. The students in 9th grade are taking an integrated freshman science course which allows them to look at various areas of science. We have a particular emphasis on life science in the second semester which helps students prepare for the biology end of course exam which is a graduation requirement for this year's freshmen.

Q. Will many of these students go on to take Advanced Placement courses?

A. Many of these students will in their junior and senior years. We offer four Advanced Placement courses, all taught by highly qualified instructors. The variety and the depth of this course work is outstanding and reflects some of the best science teaching available to high school students in the Walla Walla valley.

Q. Are Walla Walla High School students successful on the AP exams?

A. Our AP courses are very successful as far as examinations are concerned. For example, students in Rob Ahren's classes last year passed at 100%. The completion rate is very commendable in other classes too. Our AP exam scores are well above the national averages.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
TERRY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TERRY...

Science is a wonderful class which allows students to re-examine their curiosity about how the world around them works. Our teachers have a willingness to work together and a desire to give the students the best curriculum possible.

We do have some facilities which need to be re-examined. It is important for people to know how well teachers are performing and working with the facilities they do have.



The number of girls enrolled in science classes is increasing, especially at the junior and senior level. At Wa-Hi, we have about a 50/50 split with boys and girls taking advanced science classes.