



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Jeanette Alvarez

SCHOOL: Sharpstein Elementary

Position: First Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What strategies do you use to help students learn a new language?

A. I like to use a lot of visuals. I use my hands a lot so students experience a different way of understanding what I am saying. This helps ensure I am not just talking and lecturing. It is also helpful to use hands-on strategies and activities to better engage students in their learning.

Q. Why is collaboration so important in the dual language program?

A. We often meet right after school or any chance we get to share ideas and talk about our program. This has been very helpful, especially since this is my first year teaching first grade.

Q. How did you make your cloud lesson exciting for students?

A. We incorporated a pop-up book activity into the lesson. We identified three different cloud types and students drew pictures and made a pop-up book. This project was hands-on and allowed them to use their creativity. They loved it.

Q. What are the bonuses of a dual language program?

A. This program helps embrace other cultures and traditions. This time of year we have read books about Christmas and holiday traditions in other cultures. For example, some celebrate Hanukkah while other cultures do not celebrate at all.

There is a lot of diversity in our school and the students get along great. They all play and work together and are good friends.

Over →

MOMENTS & MEMORIES
Teaching is definitely a lot more than I thought it would be when I was in college. I put in a lot of extra time, but it is all worth it. Working with kids is number one. I love it.



COMMENTS FROM JEANETTE:
Last year, I taught third grade at Edison. This year, I am teaching first grade and I think it is a better fit for me. I really enjoy working with the younger children.

I grew up in Sunnyside and was active in high school. I was a cheerleader and on the dance team. I graduated from Eastern Washington University. I was also a cheerleader at EWU.



I enjoy spending time with my extended family in Sunnyside. I'm an active person and like to go to the gym and work out. It is a stress reliever.