



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Elisabeth Entrena SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

Position: Dual Language Teacher (3rd) YEARS IN DISTRICT: 8 years

Q. What are your goals for students in third grade dual language?

A. I want all my students to be able to have a conversation in Spanish. My second goal is for them to begin writing their own stories in Spanish. This is a difficult skill for third graders because transitioning from oral language to the written portion is a big step.

Q. Why is dual language an effective model for language acquisition?

A. My dual language partner teacher is Jo Anna Gogl. She teaches a similar curriculum in English and I teach my students in Spanish. We complement each other so the students are always supported.

Q. How does the program work in partnership with two teachers?

A. Mrs. Gogl teaches math and I teach Language Arts. I review all the content Mrs. Gogl is teaching in Spanish with my students. This is a great way to help our bilingual students learn math because it has been a challenge for them. She supports me with science instruction by reviewing the materials in English.

I don't simply teach Spanish language for Language Arts, I teach them skills for developing ideas for paragraphs, comparing and contrasting text and writing sentences. Teaching content in a second language helps students arrive at the same goal while acquiring a second language.

Q. What are some of the other benefits of the Dual Language program?

A. I want to go beyond English and Spanish in my class. Many students in the Dual Language program believe the world is divided into English and Spanish. I teach my students there are many languages and cultures in our world. Each week we do a greeting in a new language.

Over 

Elisabeth Entrena

I grew up in Spain between Madrid and Barcelona. At first I wanted to be an artist before pursuing a career as a teacher. I met my husband at college in Spain. I moved to the United States 20 years ago.



MORE COMMENTS FROM ELI:

Moving to Walla Walla after I was married was a big change for me because my hometown was a big city and Walla Walla seemed like a farm town at the time. I have truly grown to love and appreciate Walla Walla. It is now my home.

The relationships with my students keep me going. I enjoy seeing their progress. I believe languages are the foundation for all learning.



I enjoy creating new materials and staying fresh in my profession. I believe if I'm excited about our schoolwork then my students will be as well.