



# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Erin Moreno

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

Position: 1st Grade Dual teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 12 years

Q. What is your role in the dual language program?

A. I am the Spanish side of the first grade dual language program. I teach Spanish native language students reading and writing and I also teach science and social studies in Spanish. My partner teacher is Lisa Braddock.

Q. Why is the dual language program a good fit at Edison?

A. Spanish is the native language for many of our students. One of goals at Edison is to help students connect with each other to build cross cultural relationships between students. The dual language program allows students to have peer role models as they are acquiring a second language.

Q. How much of the second language are students learning by first grade?

A. It depends on the student and how much support of their second language they are receiving at home. Right now we are focused on vocabulary. This is a critical age to learn language whether English or Spanish. We also use vocabulary in our singing and dancing to connect with students. We still consider all of our first graders to be at the beginning level in learning dual languages.

Q. Is the dual language program at Edison making a difference?

A. Our dual language program has improved after having it here for a few years. There are still challenges we work through because our students change and education changes. We continue to be flexible and do what is best for kids. Overall the program strengthens our community and helps with relationship building.

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**Erin Moreno**

I started taking Spanish classes at Walla Walla High School as a freshman and had some great teachers. I fell in love with the culture and language so I continued taking Spanish for four years.



**MORE COMMENTS FROM ERIN:**

Learning Spanish for me was academically based at first. I continued taking Spanish in college and had the opportunity to live in Mexico. In Mexico, I lived with host families and it was more of an immersion type of learning.

We get a lot of positive feedback from parents whose children are in the program. Each family understands the value of learning two languages and how far that will take their child in the future.



I was born and raised in Walla Walla, as was my husband. We have pretty strong family roots and friends in Walla Walla. We have three school age children and enjoy spending time as a family.