



Eva Matson

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Eva Matson

SCHOOL: Blue Ridge Elementary

Position: Kindergarten Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. How does spring break help re-energize your kindergarten students?

A. It is always nice to have a break and come back refreshed. Especially this year since we are more focused on the Common Core Standards.

Q. How have the Common Core Standards impacted your classroom?

A. We have higher expectations for our students and for our teaching practices. We use exit tickets to see if students understand the concepts. We recently had a building directed day where we learned about effective questioning based on our standards. We have clear objectives and the students rise to the challenge.

Q. How does the dual language program at Blue Ridge differ from Sharpstein?

A. All three Blue Ridge kindergarten teachers instruct in both English and Spanish at some point in the day. At Sharpstein there is an "English only" classroom and the two teachers in the dual language program use only one language – either Spanish or English.

The content matter is broken out into English or Spanish. For example, math is always taught in English and social studies in Spanish. However at Blue Ridge, all the Kindergarten teachers use Spanish and English throughout the day and there is no English only classroom. We use a buddy model where dominate English and dominate Spanish speaking students are paired like at Sharpstein.

Q. How does it feel to be part of the Blue Ridge success story?

A. When one sets high expectations, the students reach them. Although they are only five or six years old, it is really exciting to see them reach those goals. If you plan and prep accordingly, look at the Common Core Standards and set objectives, kids "get it" and are excited about their learning.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
EVA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM EVA.

I grew up at Broetje Orchards and attended Vista Hermosa and Prescott High School. I went to WSU and earned a degree in human development. I was working as a para-educator at Sharpstein when Laure Quaresma encouraged me to go back to school and earn a master's degree in education.

It was nice coming in after being a para-educator because I had background knowledge. I worked with a lot of teachers and observed many different teaching styles.



I have known my husband since second grade and we are expecting our first child. I like to exercise and travel - especially to Mexico. My husband Travis works at the Washington State Penitentiary.