



Gay Buissink

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Gay Buissink

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Business Education Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 9 years

Q. What courses do you teach through the Business & Occupation Education program?

A. I start my day with two Microsoft application classes, followed by a print journalism class where students produce the school newspaper. I also have an online journalism class which features its own journalism website. We also manage the news and photo section for the Wa-Hi web page. I end my day teaching a technical writing class.

Q. How do these courses offer students real world experiences?

A. Students are able to take what they have learned in other classes and apply them in a real world setting. For instance, if a student has taken digital photography from Keven Peck, these skills can be applied to the print or online journalism class.

Q. How do the skills from your class extend into students' other interests?

A. They understand deadlines and how to collaborate with other students through the journalism program. In technical writing they are learning a different way of writing and in the computer applications class they understand how to use all of the Microsoft programs. It is my hope they will be a better student as a result of anything they take from me

Q. How did your class collaborate with the New York Times?

A. In the print class we just finished a project for the New York Times. We have never worked on a project like this before. It required us to document our home town in photographs and captions. Each student will have at least one image on the New York Times lens blog. All the photos will be archived in the Library of Congress with a possibility of one photo being printed in the New York Times print publication.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
GAY'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM GAY.

Students in the online journalism class are learning how to write for public relations. They manage the news and photo sections on the Wa-Hi website. They also have the "J" website which is more of a full feature media like the New York Times online edition.

I grew up on a wheat farm in Rosalia, Washington near Spokane. I attended Eastern Washington University and have two grown children.



I taught for EWU before moving to California and teaching at a community college in Fresno. I worked for Motorola Computer Systems before landing in Walla Walla to teach at the community college.