



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Jo Anna Gogl

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

Position: 3rd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 17 years

Q. What are your students working on this time of the year?

A. In math, we are working on area and connecting multiplication with area. In third grade understanding the concept of multiplication is very important. We also teach reading and language arts and content is influenced by our themes.

We are busy in science and social studies. We are finishing up a unit on changes -- solids and gases. I am in a dual language classroom so I reinforce in English what the other class does in Spanish. We also do our vocabulary in English. Soon we will move to nutrition and digestion.

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

A. I serve on the English side of the program which means I teach reading, language arts and math in English. Teaching in the dual language program has forced me to be more efficient with my time because we have less time in each block. I have to focus on the standards and think what's most efficient for the kids to learn.

Q. What are some strategies you use to work with parents?

A. We have a homework sheet that goes home every week and I try to put upcoming events on it so parents stay informed. We have contact with parents regularly. We also use email to stay connected.

It is more challenging in the dual program because I feel I can only communicate with half of my parents. Fortunately, my teaching partner is good about making phone calls for me to parents who require Spanish.

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**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
JO ANNA GOGL:**

I believe kids who struggle now tend to struggle even more as they move up in the grade levels. We work really hard to make school a positive place for them.



COMMENTS FROM JO ANNA:

It is nice to have a new Edison facility. It is bigger so we have moved from having a whole building feel to having more of a pod feel. We have our grade level pods which are smaller communities within the larger community.

I grew up in San Francisco and moved to Portland, Oregon when I was 23. We moved to Walla Walla in 1997. Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be a teacher.



We have seven children; the oldest is 20 and the youngest is nine. My husband is a stay at home dad, but will graduate from the nursing program this spring as a Registered Nurse.