



Genie Huntemann

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Genie Huntemann

SCHOOL: Lincoln High School

Position: English Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 12 years

Q. What are students in your sophomore Tier II English class studying?

A. We are focusing heavily on reading comprehension, fluency and helping the students develop a greater interest in reading. Many of my students have a low interest in reading and fall well below the benchmarks for their grade level. They have missed a lot of the basics during their school years so we are doing creative activities to help build their skill level.

Q. What are some of the creative activities you are doing to improve reading?

A. We are using higher interest level reading materials so they can relate better to the content. We are doing reading theatre activities and the students are assigned a part to play-out with their peers. By having a smaller group setting, we lower the threshold of anxiety to participate in classroom activities.

Q. Is this a full year course?

A. This class counts as their sophomore English class. It is a full year course. We have some flexibility to move students if the pace is too slow. Some students will transfer into Patrick Kofler's class to be with students who are at or above grade level.

Q. How do you help inspire students to develop a love for school?

A. For some students, half the battle is just getting them to come to school each day. I have been able to establish a strong relationship with these students because I had many of them last year as freshmen. It was nice to have that carry over and I have seen massive improvements in their ability to see their future. It is starting to set in that school is important. For many students school is not their favorite place. They have really developed a comfort level at Lincoln. I see them showing up for school more, volunteering in my classroom, and being more present in school activities.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
GENIE'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM GENIE.

It is important to support those who have often gone unnoticed. Many of these students don't have adults in their lives who are advocating for their best interests. If we don't build these students up emotionally and socially, they will never realize their academic potential.

I grew up in Alaska and attended West High School. I went to Whitman College and studied art. I received my Masters of Fine Arts degree from Vermont College.



Most of family is from the Oregon/Washington area. I have two little boys, ages 2 and 4. I've moved back to Walla Walla three times because I love it. I like to run, bike, cook, hang out with friends and travel.