



Kate Venneri

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kate Venneri

SCHOOL: Homelink

Position: Math and Science Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 25 years

Q. What do you teach in the Homelink program and what is your daily schedule?

A. I have the students two days a week. Students come mornings for their academic block in math and science. The 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades attend on Tuesday and Thursday and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students come on Mondays and Wednesdays. I base my instruction on the Essential Academic Learning Requirements in the core content areas.

Q. What are the Homelink students in your 7th & 8th grade science class working on?

A. The students are learning what effect temperature has on ocean currents. The experiment calls for room temperature water with a beaker of ice water on one side and boiling water on the other side. An indicator (dye) is added to show the flow of the water. We are always working on understanding what variables are controlled, which ones change, and drawing conclusions about what we see and observe.

Q. What are some of the advantages of teaching the Homelink program?

A. Homelink allows me to teach in the areas that I am well trained in, which are math and science. I can concentrate on these subject areas. The challenge is not knowing the student's prior background in the subject areas. For example, before one can track a hurricane, one must know longitude and latitude. I've taught in the Explorer program and Homelink has many similarities because of the parent partnership model.

Q. What are some of the benefits this program offers students?

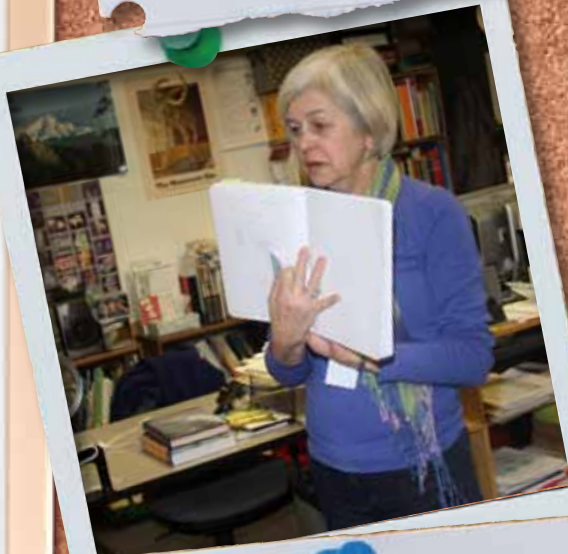
A. Homelink allows these students to have social interactions, team problem solve, and work together. They don't get this at home because they are working independently. The communication between peers is an important part of this program.

Over





**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
KATE'S CLASS:**



**COMMENTS FROM KATE.**

We provide teaching strategies and ideas for the parents if they are faced with not making progress in a particular area. We rarely have discipline problems in the Homelink program. The children are very well behaved. It is a joy to teach them every day.

I grew up on a farm near Spokane and attended WSU to study pre-pharmacy. I left school to marry a Walla Walla farmer. I went back to school later in life to become a teacher.



I like textile arts, walking my dog, gardening, and biking. My greatest passion is travel. This summer we will travel to Sicily. My son and daughter are grown. My husband Gordon owns Walla Walla Vintners.