



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: **Monica Nelson**

SCHOOL: **Walla Walla High School**

Position: **Math Teacher**

YEARS IN DISTRICT: **12 years**

Q. What is the goal for the intensified algebra class?

A. This class is designed to bring freshmen up to grade level standards and bridge the gap from 8th grade. This class helps the students earn a full credit in algebra and be geometry ready by their sophomore year.

Q. How did the successful grant application support your teaching?

A. The grant funded technology as well as the workbooks. Students use Chromebooks every day. This curriculum easily allows students the opportunity to navigate back and forth between the device and workbook. This curriculum has a lot of animation so they can quickly manipulate on the Chromebooks. They also have access to the curriculum at home or on their smartphones.

Q. How have the students reacted to the class?

A. The kids are much more interactive and engaged. This particular program is aligned to the Smarter Balanced exams. The devices are touchscreen so they can manipulate objects and move items around. They can create graphs, shift items up and down, and study relationships. In algebra, it is all about relationships with numbers and what happens with these relationships.

Q. How does the technology help you know if the students understand the materials?

A. This program has online practices. I am able to assess at the end of the class or in the middle of the class how much time they spent on a problem. I can also assess how many times they have tried to get it right or if they answered it wrong. It is a helpful tool as an educator.

Over 

MOMENTS & MEMORIES
There are eight mathematical practices. These practices include challenging students to know if it makes sense. We teach them how to persevere with the problem, communicate and justify their answer.



COMMENTS FROM MONICA:

This curriculum makes students investigate these difficult areas. We no longer say here is the procedure, now regurgitate it and move forward. The key is to answer the question -- "does this make sense?"

The state of Washington requires three credits of math. Algebra is the first credit and geometry is the second credit. In order to be college and career ready, which is our mission, algebra II is required.



I grew up in Portland and went to Oregon State University. I was a high school teacher in Oregon in both public and private schools. I also taught at WWCC.