



Anne Schulz

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Anne Schulz

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: Math Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What are 6th grade students in the 2A Math Course studying?

A. This is a class for 6th grade students who are learning math from the 7th grade curriculum. We are working on how to solve one step equations. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations and solving with a variable. Next week we will move into area and perimeter.

Q. How are students placed in this class?

A. They are placed by their 5th grade teacher, MAP scores, and general performance in class. We take a lot of different factors into account when we do CAST meetings in the spring. Next year, based on their success rate in this class, they will either go into pre-Algebra or regular Algebra.

Q. Why is it important to have an advanced track for some students?

A. These students have brains that process concepts really fast. Instead of teaching the materials faster to them, I take them deeper. I challenge them with higher level thinking questions and deeper application.

Q. What is the key to improving state-wide middle school math scores?

A. There are so many aspects that go into state test scores. It is one math test, taken on one day. These students are going through many transitions. Math isn't the only area they in which they are in transition during this part of their lives.

Middle school is a significant shift from elementary school. Students are in transition in every aspect of their life and I see this as a contributing factor to test scores. I believe part of the solution is allowing students time to discover their learning.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM ANNE'S CLASS:

I grew up in Walla Walla and attended Berney, Prospect Point, Garrison Middle School and Wa-Hi.



COMMENTS FROM ANNE:

One of my goals is to make every day applicable to students. Whether it is coming up with story problems or situations where they have to figure out a problem or things they might interact with in day-to-day living.

I lead the Young Life Wyldife program in town. This is a passion of mine. I love to be outside. I run, ride my bike, and play tennis.



I would often hear stories from my parents (both local educators) when kids have an "aha" moment. I wouldn't fully understand why they were so excited. Now that I'm a teacher and see those aha moments for myself it is really rewarding.