



Kenny Smith

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kenny Smith

SCHOOL: Lincoln High School

Position: Math Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What are the students in your Algebra II class working on?

A. We are working on ALEKS which is a computer-based program designed to offer individual targeted instruction. It is aligned with the Common Core standards and allows students to learn at their own pace and at their current level.

This is especially helpful with math. It is easy to lose students when all you do is stand in the front of the class and lecture because if the lesson is either too hard or too easy the students may not pay attention.

Q. How does this type of learning program help prepare students for college?

A. The ALEKS program is used at the WWCC as a placement test for new students coming to the school. Since our students are familiar with this program it will help them in the future if they plan to go to college.

Q. How did your years teaching at WSU prepare you for Lincoln High School?

A. At WSU, I taught the students who scored below college level math standards. I've used this experience with my students at Lincoln because I know exactly what they need to get into college based on the placement test.

Q. Why do you prefer teaching at Lincoln High School over college students?

A. The Lincoln student population is similar in age, but high school is by far more challenging. It is also more rewarding. At WSU the students would work quietly and listen to me talk and teach. The Lincoln students require me to be at my best. It was actually kind of boring at college. While I was at WSU, my wife would ask me about my work day and I wouldn't have any stories to tell. Now that I am here at Lincoln I have some pretty good stories to tell. Lincoln is a good fit for me.

Over



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

Lincoln High School works great for students who need smaller class sizes and more individualized attention.



COMMENTS FROM KENNY:

I went to a smaller school and that was something I needed. I received more one-on-one attention and didn't get lost in the crowd. I started my college career at WWCC. I am glad I went to WWCC first and not WSU because I feel I wouldn't have made it through college.

I grew up in Colfax. I received my bachelor's degree from WSU. My wife is also from Colfax.



My wife and I have two children. We have a four-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son.

We stay at home a lot these days, but we just came back from a family trip at Disneyland.