



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Sandy Thomas

SCHOOL: SEA-TECH Skills Center

Position: Health Science Careers

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 1 year

Q. What do students learn in the Health Science Careers program?

A. This is a pre-nursing program where students learn the skills necessary to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Students in this program have to master 22 skills and they will be randomly tested on five of these skills during their state exam. We also cover theory which supports the written portion of the exam.

Q. Why is this a critical time for students?

A. We are in crunch time right now preparing for the state exams. Students are currently working throughout the community in senior living homes completing their clinicals. They will be in these facilities three days a week for the next three months. My goal is for every single student to pass their state exam.

Q. Why is a CNA certificate valuable?

A. These students will be able to go out in our community and get a job. It is also a pathway into higher education nursing programs. We desperately need CNA's. Currently students are placed at Park Manor Rehabilitation Center and the Odd Fellows Home and we have received nothing but praise about our students.

Q. Why is the classroom set-up like a hospital setting?

A. We have five hospital beds with mannequin patients to create round-robin stations for the students to master their skills. The classroom set-up supports hands-on activities to simulate a medical facility. The skills students are learning include blood pressure, pulse, respiratory and how to transfer a patient. I am holding these students to a very high standard. They are well prepared for their clinical site work.

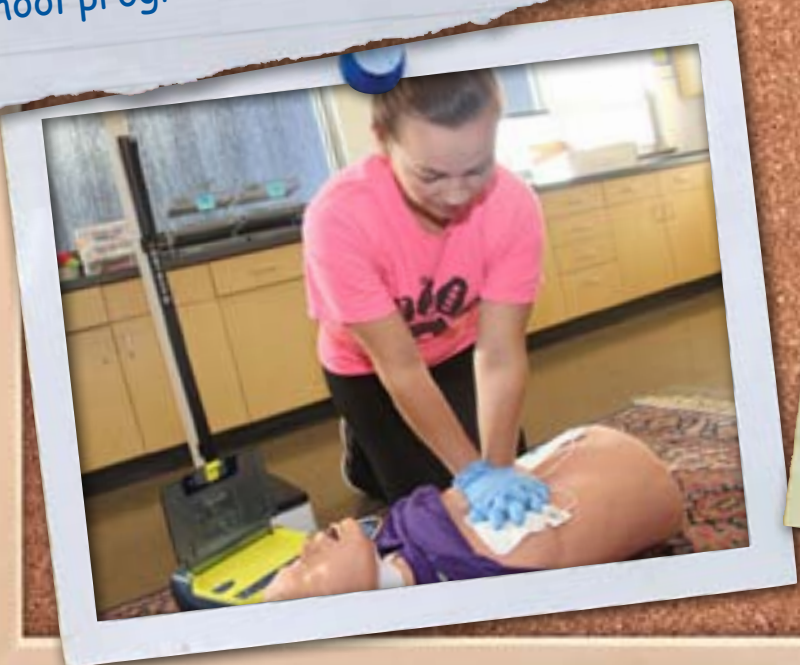
Over →

MOMENTS & MEMORIES
These students earn 12.1 equivalency credits which can transfer to the Walla Walla Community College nursing program. In order to get these credits, students must maintain a 85% grade in my class.



COMMENTS FROM SANDY:
The college credits our students earn equates to an entire semester of college. This program is offered at no cost to the students and is paid for through this public school program.

I grew up in Boise, ID and was a dental assistant for many years. I received my R.N. at WWCC and have been a nurse for 20 years.



I taught at Tri-Tech Skills Center in the Kennewick School District for the past five years. I like to spend time with my grandchildren.