



# Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Tanya Hoffman

POSITION: Para-Educator

School: Walla Walla High School

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 15 years

Q. What is your role as a Para-Educator at Wa-Hi?

A. I translate for the teachers. When they speak in English, I work with students who speak Spanish as their first language to make sure they understand what the teacher is saying. Teachers don't have to spend extra time trying to have the students understand. The teacher can focus on the content.

Q. Why are Para-Educators needed in the classroom?

A. The students I work with would not understand the material the teacher is communicating if I was not available to support them. They would get frustrated and fail the class. Para-Educators help students understand what the teacher is talking about so they can improve their grades and pass the class.

Q. Why did you learn Spanish even though your first language is Russian?

A. At first I was hired as a Russian interpreter, but there weren't many Russian students as time went on. There were many Spanish speaking students so I decided to learn Spanish to be more helpful in the classroom. Now I am able to translate for Russian and Spanish speaking students. It helps all of these students understand what is being taught in class.

Q. What motivates you to keep working hard for your students?

A. I am thrilled to have this job and I honestly love to work with these students and help them succeed. The teachers don't even realize the students have a language barrier because Para-Educators are there to translate and make a smooth transition. I love it!

Over

NOTES:

Tayna is married and has two children ages 17 and 10. She enjoys working around the house and gardening.

# Highlights Tanya Hoffman



I have been in the US for more than 20 years and have worked for WWPS for 15 years.



I was born in Russia. I graduated from college in Russia, but not in an education field. When I came to the United States at age 27 and I had to learn English.

Tanya received a Staff Achievement grant in 2009.