



Chris Blackman

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Chris Blackman

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Special Education Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 7 years

Q. How does your new classroom coffee shop help students learn?

A. Students in our Adaptive Home Economics class now sell coffee to staff and will soon be able to offer this service to students. Students take orders, make the drinks and then deliver them. At first many of our students were not comfortable going into the other classrooms to deliver the coffee. Now they are lined up and volunteering to go. I have seen tremendous growth in their confidence and skills.

Q. How did you get this program started?

A. We collected data from teachers. We asked them what type of drinks they liked, what the appropriate size should be and what would be an acceptable price. We raised our own funds to buy a new coffee machine. We were then able to begin advertising and start taking orders. It continues to grow as more staff learn about the service.

Q. What do you plan to do with the profits?

A. Some of the profits will go back into purchasing supplies and growing our business. We are also planning a spring field trip to Triple-Play in Coeur d' Alene, ID. We went there last year and the kids loved it. There is something for everyone.

Q. What is the Distinguished Guest Program?

A. We invite members of the community to come to our classroom for a visit. We serve them a baked good and drink and then have a conversation. Students prepare questions in advance to ask the guests during the visit.

Our goal is to help them develop skills to have a productive conversation. At first I was very present at the table with the students, but eventually I was able to step away and let them lead the conversation on their own. The guests enjoy the visit as well. It's a great way to learn more about our program.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
CHRIS BLACKMAN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM CHRIS...

Our students learn most every skill necessary to run a household. They learn to vacuum, wash dishes, bake and do laundry. Each day they have chores to do and work as a team to complete them.

Our students take these skills home and the parents love it. They see the hard work is paying off and we are making progress toward transition.



We also teach our students the value of the dollar and how to shop. They learn to catch the Valley Transit and we go to Harvest Foods every other week.