



Gayle Kinman

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Gayle Kinman

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Art Teacher

Years in District: 21 years

Q. What project are your students working on?

A. We are working on cartoon faces. The students are learning to enlarge and draw what they see. They are also learning about the elements of lines, shapes and colors. We also work in the principles of design and patterns.

Q. How often do you see the students?

A. I see them daily for nine weeks. Students receive one quarter of art instruction per year.

Q. Can students get more time with you?

A. I encourage students to come in afterschool to work on projects. Many students will come in and continue developing their skills on their own time. I'm always amazed about how much growth I see.

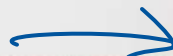
Q. How do you help students overcome their fears?

A. As often as I can, I meet with the students individually to help them develop their skills. As they develop their skills, they also gain confidence. I ask my students to not compare their work to mine or the other students. I've been doing this a long time. As with anything, art takes a lot of practice.

Q. Why are art skills valuable?

A. I think art is one of the most important classes students will take. I tell them that art is all around us. It's in architecture, videos and board games. My students are amazed at how art impacts their world. I recently showed my students how both of my sons use art in their careers. One of them is the editor of a dirt biking magazine and the other is a graphic designer who creates dirt biking apparel. This connection peaked their interest, especially for the boys in my class.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
GAYLE KINMAN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM GAYLE...

Art is very helpful for students who do better expressing themselves visually. There is also much problem-solving in art. The principles of art that students are learning in my class will be skills they can draw upon the rest of their lives.

I wish I had the students for the entire year or even a semester. It's important to make a connection with the students and that takes time.



Art does become a favorite for many of the students. Once they have success, it becomes exciting for them. After they develop skills, I really see their creative side come out.