



Kathy Pritcher

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kathy Pritcher

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Math Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 34 years

Q. Why are advanced math skills like these in Algebra 3/4 necessary for all students?

A. I see math as a gateway class. We know from research the more math a student takes in high school, the higher chance they have of being successful in college.

The daily rigor, deep thinking and learning how to fight through something until you understand it, is what math offers. We want everyone to know how important math is and that we are all here to help. Careers like architecture and engineering rely on these higher level math skills.

Q. How do you help students understand this complicated content?

A. This is a college readiness standard. This is something colleges are saying students who graduate from Walla Walla High School should have been exposed to during their high school years. We do our best to cover all the material.

It's really not a very hard topic once you get into it. There are some great formulas we use to help students understand the relationships between numbers. Our elementary teachers have worked really hard to shore up number sense the past few years and this will help students when they get into high school.

Q. Do you think the end of course exam model is an improvement?

A. I'll have a better answer after we get done doing it for the first time. Generally speaking, I think testing in the classroom is a good idea. I think doing the testing over three days and in smaller chunks is probably a good idea too. I also believe having algebra separate from geometry -- so you are testing at the end of each year when they just finished the course -- is a good idea.

However, I reserve the right to fully judge how I feel about the changes until I see how well our students do with the end of course exams.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
KATHY PRITCHER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM KATHY...

It's frustrating to hear people say we are in a math crisis. I've been in this game for 34 years and have heard a lot of jargon over the years and seen a lot of standards. It's time to look beyond the students, teaching and curriculum. We also need to look at the test.

I try to make connections with my students so they know I care about their success and who they are as a person. I want them to be successful.



I pride myself on being here for my students. I try to meet the kids where they need me to meet them. I will go above and beyond to help.