



Marie Spalding

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Marie Spalding

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Language Arts Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 6 years

Q. What are some of the lessons your students have been working on recently?

A. This is a 6th grade literacy class for reading and writing. We are finishing up a lesson we started prior to the Thanksgiving break. We are using prepositions to improve elaboration.

This is a general education class. I have a diverse group of learners. I have students who vary in their ability to write. The beauty of this class is it allows me to work with students at their current level, and through revision, take them to the next level.

Q. What are some of the learning targets you are trying to reach this year?

A. We are working to apply the Six Traits of Writing (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions and Presentation). This first half of the year we have been focusing on ideas because without specific details in their writing none of the other parts of the Six Traits of Writing can fall into place.

Q. Why are these skills so valuable during their school years and beyond?

A. Writing and reading are the foundational skills for being a global citizen, so without them these people flounder. When I see students have success, I'm confident when I'm an old lady I will have people out there taking care of the world knowing what to say and how to say it.

Q. How do you use real world examples to support the classroom learning?

A. We use a lot of functional documents. We read as writers and write as readers so there is always a connection. We talk about what makes something an effective piece of writing -- whether it is a web site, magazine or newspaper. We also compose articles of the week. I talk about the writing with students. It helps them see good writing and puts them in touch with what is going on in their world.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
MARIE SPALDING'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM MARIE...

Students are asked to write and express themselves in other subjects, so being able to communicate clearly is important. This allows the teachers to determine if the students understand the concepts being taught.

There is continuity in the curriculum from teacher to teacher, while still allowing students to use their personal style to get the core standards across.



Students work with partners to get peer feedback. They also do a lot of practice and revision with their own work to help them grow as writers.