



Tina Brennan

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Tina Brennan

SCHOOL: Blue Ridge Elementary

Position: Kindergarten Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What are your kindergarten students working on these days?

A. We are doing a letter a week until we get through the alphabet and all five vowels. We are practicing site words. We want to make simple sentences. We play a lot of games for speed identification of letters. We also match objects with the sound of the letter.

Q. What are your goals for students in relation to letters of the alphabet?

A. Kindergarten standards require students to leave kindergarten reading simple, repetitive sentences. My goal is for students to know all their letters and sounds by winter break so we can move way beyond letters and sounds by spring.

We will write non-fiction books all spring. The books will be about animals and topics they know about and enjoy. We spend a lot of time getting students familiar with how books work so they know all the parts of a book and move beyond just reading all the words.

Q. How do you address working with students with different skill levels?

A. We strive to take the students where they are at and build their skills from this point. We have kids coming in knowing a lot of letters and some not knowing the difference between letters and numbers. We spend a lot of time validating that everyone has a lot to learn no matter what it is.

Q. What makes Blue Ridge a special place to work and learn?

A. We are all on the same team. We model the Jim Collins concept of everyone on the same bus going in the same direction. We are making gains but we all know we are no where near where we need to be. We are all on the same page.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
TINA BRENNAN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TINA...

I love the dual language program here. We are in our second year. We learned so much last year that we are making even more progress this year. Most of our kindergarten students are at zero in one of the languages so we see tremendous growth during the year.

I teach math to every kindergarten student as part of the platooning model. Teachers, students and parents know who to talk to for math support.



Since I teach math to all students, I get to focus on one subject. All students get the same materials and instruction. The dual language program and platooning model are working well here.