



Tom Porter

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Tom Porter

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Contract Program Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 17 years

Q. What is the new contract program at Walla Walla High School?

A. This is a standard and extended school day contract program for students who need alternative placement for a specific class period. It's much like the former Opportunity Program we had in the past. For example: This program is for a student who has failed in a content area course and needs credit retrieval in lieu of an elective or serves as an added class as part of an extended day.

Students may also be enrolled in one or two classes in the traditional program but take a majority of their courses in the contract program. This program also is an avenue for students who have been suspended or expelled to take classes. It provides more choices for our students and they are able to stay on campus.

Q. How does the program work?

A. The student and teacher enter into a contract and define expectations and requirements. Courses are pass/fail. When a student completes the course requirements the credit is granted. Students meet in a classroom setting for part of the class to do independent work and also meet one-on-one with the teacher.

Q. How many students do you serve and what subjects do you offer?

A. There are four teachers in this program. We are located in the portables on the east-side of the campus. We offer 200 appointment slots and serve approximately 150 students. We offer 19 courses in math, history, English and physical education.

Q. Who do you serve?

A. We work with students ages 14 to 21 who have typically not had success in traditional school. Many have fallen behind in credits and need a flexible schedule to accelerate their learning through credit retrieval. Some of the students have had children and are working to support their families.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
TOM PORTER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TOM...

We have high expectations for our students and hold them accountable for meeting the requirements. This program offers students an opportunity for success. It allows them to remain on campus so they can be involved in other programs and classes here.

This program provides us the flexibility we need to meet each student's needs. I also believe there is a need for a community program as well.



Developing a personal connection to a student is a critical element to a student's success. Our goal is to keep students on campus and help them get the support they need to graduate.