



Andrew Ueckert

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Andrew Ueckert

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Band Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 8 years

Q. What is the biggest adjustment from middle school to high school band?

A. It's the pace. We performed just two weeks after being together. We played at the fair and the parade so it's just one thing after the other coming at them. Our upperclassmen have to model how to be efficient in their rehearsals and the need to practice because there is a lot of music to learn in a short time.

Q. How do you get the marching band ready to perform?

A. Two weeks before school started the students had all the music we would be playing for football in their hands. We had a couple of evening rehearsals, checked out uniforms and were ready to go. We practice during class and keep chipping away at learning all the music.

Q. Why does having music in the home help students in the band program?

A. Our most successful students are those who grew up with music in their homes. Whether they go into band, choir or orchestra it's important for them to be surrounded by music. We encourage parents to take their children to concerts, play instruments and sing at home. When there are music opportunities to get involved in at home, it's important for parents to encourage their children to give it a try.

Q. Why do students in band tend to do well in school?

A. Band requires a lot of discipline. It takes teamwork, focus and good work habits. It has a cognitive impact. There are so many things to think about while playing it helps develop the brain. Students also make friends and connect with school.

Q. As a father, how does it feel to have your own children excel in the band program?

A. It's just so much fun seeing them enjoy music. All three of my children have different levels of interest, but they do it because they enjoy it. It's neat.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
ANDREW UECKERT'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM ANDREW...

I have amazing colleagues at Wa-Hi. We don't just work together, we are friends. If I'm having a bad day, they are right here to help pick me up. It's one of the reasons it's so much fun to come to work each day.

Our marching band program allows the students to participate in other activities like drama and sports. It provides the flexibility to be involved in other activities.



We have great kids in our music program. They are dedicated, talented and good students. We are proud of our band students and all they do for our school.