



# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Luke Hamada

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Science Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 4 years

Q. What are 6th grade students in your science class working on?

A. We're focusing on the water cycle, weather and storms. Soon we will be studying earthquakes.

Q. How does your experiment using plastic bottles and ice support the material?

A. Since we are working on the water cycle, I wanted the students to know how the change in the air temperature would change the water temperature. I wanted them to see if the ice changed to a liquid or a gas.

During the experiment, the students took a piece of ice and rubbed it against a plastic bottle. They then charted the reaction in their log for future reference. This activity helps them see first-hand how their hands and a little temperature change can make a big difference with the ice.

Q. How do the skills learned in your science class extend to other subjects?

A. I really feel science applies to everything in life. Science is the teaching of thinking. Science helps develop critical thinking skills to better formulate arguments.

Whether you are planning to be a lawyer, doctor or teacher, at some time in your life you will need to make a point to someone. Science provides students with a foundation of skills so they can express their thoughts so people will listen to them.

Q. How do you help the students have a successful transition to middle school?

A. I try to be very patient with my students and provide structured lessons. Everything is new to them this year. I believe it's important to ease them into middle school and let them know they have my support. It's critical to make personal connections with students so they know we care about them.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
LUKE HAMADA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LUKE...

I try to find real world problems and apply them to what we are learning. Water conservation is a good example. I want the students to know how precious this resource is and how water impacts everything in our world.

I believe it's important to keep parents informed. I often send assignments home with students to have their parents sign off on. This helps them know what we are working on in class.



Garrison is a great place. We have a lot of energetic teachers here who love what they do.

Our students are cared for and their needs are being met.