



Terri Gilbert

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Terri Gilbert

SCHOOL: Sharpstein Elementary

Position: 4th grade teacher (Dual)

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 23 years

Q. What subjects do you teach in the Dual Language program?

A. We have 53 students in the fourth grade dual language program. Luz Phillips is my partner teacher. We start the day in a home room setting with both native English and Spanish speaking students in the home room. I teach Language Arts and Math in English. Language Arts includes reading, writing and spelling. We operate on 90 minutes blocks and then rotate so we are moving a lot during the day.

Q. What are students in your class working on?

A. In writing we are working on adding more details in their writing and learning to elaborate more for their readers. We are focusing on developing skills and strategies for comprehension and vocabulary so they have the tools they need to research the meaning of words they don't know.

In math, we are working on division, multiplication, area and perimeter. Second language learners need more support in math because it is a subject with a content rich vocabulary.

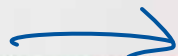
Q. What are the benefits of the dual language program?

A. There are so many benefits to this program. Students with two languages will be more competitive in the work place and have more opportunities for higher education. They also learn a deep appreciation for each other's culture.

Q. Why is the buddy model so important to this program?

A. Native English speaking students are paired with native Spanish speaking students throughout the day. They are a tremendous support for each other as they are learning a new language. They also become friends and learn to trust and count on each other for help.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
TERRI GILBERT'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TERRI...

I just love the Dual Language program. We partner with parents to ensure there is good communication. It's so fun when the younger kids and teachers come up to visit. They are amazed at how far the students have come.

I expect my students to problem solve and use common sense. We teach them strategies to be independent learners and how to use each other for support.



Education is the cornerstone for success and opportunity.

I'm learning as much as they are and we have a lot of fun along the way.