



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: **Debbie Bailey**

SCHOOL: **Pioneer Middle School**

Position: **Special Education Teacher**

YEARS IN DISTRICT: **19 years**

Q. What services do you offer as part of the Life Skills program at Pioneer?

A. The Life Skills Program is for cognitively low children who are learning functional reading, math and writing. We also do cooking, crafts, and functional words for use in the community. Students also learn about careers and job opportunities.

Q. What are the goals for the students in your program?

A. The end goal is for the students to finish high school. They may attend until they are 21-years-old. We want our students to be able to go out in the community and get a job. We also prepare them for living on their own or in a group setting.

Q. What type of growth do you see in your students during their three years with you?

A. I see great growth in our kids. We see a decrease in a lot of the behavior issues they had in elementary. They fit right into the Pioneer setting and begin making friends. For example, we had one little girl who was reading just a few words and is now reading more than 300 sight words.

Q. How do these students fit in with students in the general education program?

A. Life Skills students attend the exploratory classes at Pioneer – art, shop, and this year they were able to take guitar. All of their primary academic support is in my classroom as it is specific to their individualized educational plan.

Q. How have the staff and Pioneer students supported your program?

A. Students and staff members are very accepting of our students. The other Pioneer students interact with my students and help them whenever they can. I have several general education students who serve as teacher assistants and each year there are more students volunteering in my classroom.

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**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
DEBBIE'S CLASS:**

I was born and raised in Bremerton. My husband is a fish biologist at Little Goose Dam. His job brought us to this area. We live in Dayton. We have a daughter who attends EWU.



COMMENTS FROM DEBBIE:

I was living in Bremerton and landed a job as a clerk-typist for a special education teacher. This was when special education was getting started. The teacher said she didn't need a clerk-typist but needed someone to help her with the kids.

I fell in love with working with special education students and have been teaching for 33 years.



I like to quilt. My husband and I volunteer twice a month at St. Vincent de Paul. We are active in Corvair auto clubs. We enjoy movies and try to go once a week to the theater in Dayton.