



Kim Gradwohl

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kim Gradwohl

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

SUBJECT: Math Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What are your students working on?

A. This is a 7th grade math class, but most of my students are in the 6th grade. They are advanced. Right now we are working on area and perimeter of shapes. We do a lot of graphing and algebraic equations to get them ready for 8th grade math.

Q. What teaching strategies do you use to help them understand math concepts?

A. I've been trained in GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Development), so today I'll be using an input chart and the cognitive content dictionary with the definitions of area and perimeter. They will be doing some group work and individual study as well. By using visuals and reinforcing it with group discussion, I'm hoping they will be able to apply the math concepts I'm teaching.

Q. Why is it difficult for some middle school students to learn math?

A. A lot of the concepts we're doing are very abstract and at this age their brains are not ready for abstract concepts. This makes it challenging to teach as well. The GLAD teaching strategies help us make progress in this area.

Q. How do you prepare students for the transition to 8th grade?

A. Garrison and Pioneer teachers continually collaborate so we can improve. Many of my students will take 8th grade math next year, while some will advance to algebra. I want to make sure I'm providing them the skills to be successful.

## COMMENTS FROM PIONEER PRINCIPAL DANA JONES:

"Kim is an outstanding young teacher. She is creative and dedicated and a valuable member of our teaching staff. She consistently works with her colleagues to provide a successful learning experience for all students. She builds strong rapport with her students and the athletes with whom she works."

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
KIM GRADWOHL'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM KIM...

The first time I can remember wanting to be a teacher was in the second grade. I had Mrs. Locati at Prospect Point. Over the years it was always the only thing I wanted to do. I can't imagine doing anything else.

I thought I would be an elementary teacher. I had Mr. Ahrens at Wa-Hi. He said I should be a secondary science teacher. It turned the light bulb on that I wanted to work with older students.



I always encourage my students to get involved in activities outside of the classroom. I was a 12 season athlete at Wa-Hi. I tell them their school experience will be so much better if they find a passion outside of the classroom.