



Kim Lawbaugh

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kim Lawbaugh

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

SUBJECT: Science Teacher

Q. What is the "Wash Your Hands Please" lab?

A. It's a lab where students designed an investigation to compare and contrast effective hand washing techniques. It is part of our micro life unit. We've learned our hands are covered with 200 million microbes and the way we often get sick is by touching contaminated surfaces.

Q. Why do you use a black light for this lab?

A. Students compare different hand washing techniques and then test their results under the black light. The remaining microbes light up.

Q. Does the cold and flu season make this lesson even more effective?

A. I've had some of my students say: "Now that I've learned this, I'm washing my hands all the time." It's perfect timing. Our school nurse is talking to us about washing our hands and the best ways to avoid getting sick.

Q. Why do labs like this connect with students?

A. We can tell them and they can read about it, but by experiencing it first-hand they can actually see the results. That's the best way for students to learn.

Q. Why do skills they learn in your class help with their other subjects?

A. Even if our students don't become scientists, they are touched by science every day. The strategies we learn in here like problem solving, listening, journal writing and communication apply to all walks of life.

COMMENTS FROM PIONEER PRINCIPAL DANA JONES:

"Kim makes science engaging for every student. Her classroom is exciting, challenging, yet warm and welcoming. She works with all students to get them from where they are to where they need to be."

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
KIM LAWBAUGH'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM KIM...

"My biggest goal is for students to go away with a positive feeling about science. I want them to have fun. That is what they will carry on to their next class."

"I want my students to use the scientific thinking process by asking investigable questions and then designing labs to answer their questions."



"Seventh grade is my favorite middle school age.

They are so energetic and have so much enthusiasm for what they are learning.

I just love working with these kids."