



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Brian Richard

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: Physical Education Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 19 years

Q. Why is it important to offer archery in middle school physical education classes?

A. This is one of those activities most kids would not have the opportunity to be exposed to if it were not for Pioneer Middle School physical education classes. It's been really positive.

Safety is our top priority. We work with the students to teach them safe archery skills. We've never had a problem in all the years I've been here.

Q. Why is PE in middle school so different from elementary school?

A. Students are in PE classes more often in middle school. They are required to change into a PE uniform and use our locker rooms. It's a whole new world for them. The transition is outstanding here. Pioneer Middle School does a great job of preparing students for the 6th grade.

Q. Why is it important to offer PE classes?

A. Obesity in children has increased. I think the electronic world we live in has played a part in this increase. You don't see kids out shooting baskets in their driveways like we did back in the day. It is very important for physical education to remain a part of our every day curriculum. Next year we plan to offer PE daily for Pioneer Middle School students.

Q. Why do you need a second gym at Pioneer Middle School?

A. We have so many students we have to use the multipurpose room for physical education. It's a very small space and it also serves as the school's cafeteria. We can't use the multipurpose room during lunch times so all the kids must go to the gym. It's extremely crowded. We know we are not the top priority on the district's Facilities Improvement Plan, but are the second priority. We would really welcome a second gym to better serve our students.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
BRIAN RICHARD'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM BRIAN...

Middle school students are going through a lot of physical changes. Physical Education class allows the students to release some of their stored up energy. Classroom teachers will tell you it helps their students perform better in school.

It was exciting to hear Dr. John Medina talk about the importance of physical education and its connection to brain development. His data shows the difference it makes.



Physical education helps expose students to exercise, health and proper nutrition. These are skills students will use throughout their lives.