



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Lynn Junke

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

Position: Humanities Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 9 years

Q. What are students working on in your 8th grade Humanities class?

A. Every spring we work on a constitutional issue which is linked to our Classroom Based Assessments as required by OSPI. We investigate and review the Constitution and relate it to issues impacting our country. An example might be banned books.

This year we are excited to study native peoples and some of the issues which impact them. Our school librarian, Janis Barton, helped us secure a grant to work with the Umatilla tribe on some of these issues. Students are narrowing their topics and will soon make a selection for their project. Possible issues which students might choose from include: salmon restoration, the Treaty of 1855, 'Kennewick Man', and hunting on Indian land.

Q. What resources are now available as a result of this grant?

A. I am a strong advocate for getting community involvement in our schools. The grant allows us to work with Whitman Mission Ranger Mike Dedman on the CBA project. He has brought a wealth of information and materials for the students to experience. We plan to have other experts present in support of this project. Students are learning about the area in which they are growing up: who lives there, who owns the land, who doesn't own the land, the Treaty of 1855 that set up the reservation and how these issues impact today's world.

Q. What is a Classroom Based Assessment?

A. The state assessments are administered and scored each year in reading, writing, math and science. The state requires Social Studies to have Classroom Based Assessments (CBA). These assessments are administered and scored by the classroom teacher. The results are sent on to OSPI. Students take a point of view and develop a persuasive paper, PowerPoint, or video. This involves a lot of research and students must be able to defend their position. This also requires strong writing skills.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
LYNN'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM LYNN...

A key element of the CBA is the development of critical thinking skills. Students are asked to be creative in their thinking. They will need to use reason and think creatively and critically. I want them to take critical thinking skills to the high school.

I never have students ask me why we are studying history, because we use current events which link the past to the world they are living in today.



I love being a tool to help students learn. It is inspiring when my students discover something by using their reasoning skills. This tells me we will have great people leading our communities and country.