Walla Walla Public Schools
Classroom Close-Up

Brad Ludwig

TEACHER NAME: Brad Ludwig

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

GRADE: 8th

SUBJECTS: Lang. Arts/Social Studies

Q. What is the focus of this class?

A. We are continually trying to figure out why the United States is the way it is, why the world is the way it is and how history relates to what we are doing today.

Q. How do you help students learn these skills?

A. We do a lot of reading and writing that revolves around U.S. History. We do hands on projects, role playing, poster work, working in teams and oral presentations using PowerPoint.

Q. Describe a project students have worked on recently.

A. We just finished a unit on the U.S. Constitution. The students researched current issues and came up with debate topics and outlines. They then argued on these current issues.

Q. How does studying song lyrics help students learn more about poetry?

A. Song lyrics help students see the deeper meaning in the words. It makes them take a closer look at the writing rather than just skimming over it. They soon realize song lyrics are just poetry set to music. It's a very popular project.

COMMENTS FROM PIONEER PRINCIPAL DANA JONES:

"Brad Ludwig is one of those teachers students gravitate toward. He has a great rapport with students and works to make lessons relevant for our 8th graders. He's an important part of our middle school team."

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
BRAD LUDWIG'S CLASS:

COMMENTS: FROM BRAD...
"I like teaching middle school students because you can help them in their transition from children to young adults. They continually test boundaries -- oh, yes they really test the boundaries. I let them know it's ok to make mistakes, but to learn from them so they are not repeated."

"I have students write and present their own poetry. Students also analyze poetry to pull out deeper meaning and discuss what they think the author is saying."

"I have students use PowerPoint presentations on whatever topic we study. We also use AlphaSmart keyboards (word processors) to help with writing and get to a computer lab to do research on the internet."