

Anyone Can be Good at Math, continued...

By Bill Holman, Franklin Elementary Principal

Last summer I submitted an article about mathematical learning and growth mindset, entitled "Anyone Can Be Good At Math!" I have enjoyed watching practices and attitudes evolve in my time as elementary principal, along with the quality of student learning. I thought it would be appropriate to provide a midyear update.

During the 2016-17 school year, teachers in kindergarten through second grade participated in a sequence of trainings designed to help them facilitate learning activities in ways that they had likely not themselves experienced as learners. These trainings occurred over three full school days, spaced over a few months time. During these sessions teachers applied contemporary, research based learning theory to design instructional activities. They visited their own classrooms as a group and utilized their students to implement the lessons and practice the skills in the presence of each other and the trainer. They then reviewed and critiqued the activity or activities. Between sessions, teachers practiced the skills by planning and facilitating additional activities, to be reviewed when the team reassembled.

One of the underlying learning theories is constructivism which has at its heart the notion that learners are not blank slates, but creators of their own learning. Constructing learning means to connect existing ideas to new ideas using reflective thought, requiring the student to take a highly active role in their own learning. In order for this to happen, the teacher needs to know their student's level of understanding of the targeted learning. They need to design activities that have entry points for each and every student in the classroom. They then need to facilitate a process that allows the student to think, work, and then to share their thinking with others. The teacher facilitates opportunity for students to connect their thinking to the thinking of others, helping them to construct strong conceptual frameworks around the learning. Ideally in these sessions, the students all do a lot more thinking and sharing than they may have in a more traditional lesson structure.

Teachers and students alike are very excited by this work. Students feel validated in their effort and thought processes and they love to share their thinking with others. Teachers are excited by the level of engagement they are observing and by the learning and confidence the students are exhibiting. They are working hard to build their own facilitation and design skills. The trainings are continuing during the current school year. Kindergarten through second grade teachers participated in a review day, early in the year. Teachers in grades three through five are participating in a three day process much like their k-2 counterparts experienced last year. I have heard more than one comment that this classroom embedded model is the best professional development structure they have ever experienced.

Trainers **Kim Dennis** and **Michelle McKenzie** are fabulously modeling with teachers and administrators the powerful and effective techniques described above. Please stay tuned for more information as we move forward. We can all be good at math!

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Highly Capable Program Referrals Will Be Accepted March 5-March 9

Referral forms for current K-11th grade students to receive highly capable services during next school year will be accepted March 5 – March 9.

Parents/guardians, teachers, students, and anyone else with direct knowledge of a student's abilities may refer a student for highly capable services.

For more information on the referral process or to obtain a referral form, contact the school psychologist at the student's school or the Instructional Programs Office at (509)332-3144. Additional information, as well as the referral form, can also be found at <http://bit.ly/2htubQG>.

قبول الإحالات لبرنامج المتفوقين (ذوي القدرات العالية) سيبدأ في الفترة بين 5 مارس - 9 مارس سيتم البدء في قبول طلبات الإحالة لبرنامج المتفوقين (ذوي القدرات العالية) في الفترة بين 5 مارس - 9 مارس وذلك للطلاب المقيدون حالياً بمرحلة الروضة وحتى الصف 11 لتلقي الخدمات خلال العام الدراسي المقبل ويستطيع كل من لديه دراية أو معرفة بقدرات التلميذ كالمعلم أو ولي أمر أو الوصي أو الطالب أن يتقدم بطلب إحالة من أجل الحصول على هذه الخدمات.

للحصول على المزيد من المعلومات عن عملية الإحالة أو للحصول على نموذج إحالة الرجاء الإتصال بالأخصائي النفسي في المدرسة أو بمكتب البرامج التعليمية على الرقم (509) 332-3144.

يمكنكم أيضاً الحصول على المزيد من المعلومات ونموذج الإحالة عن طريق الرابط التالي <http://bit.ly/2htubQG>

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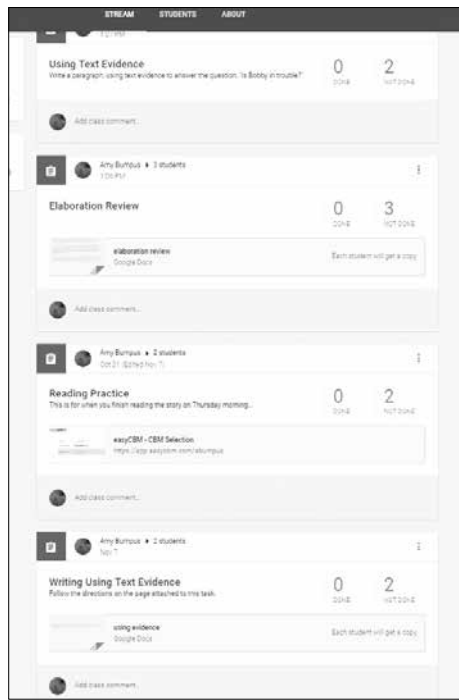
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Pullman Education Foundation Supports Innovation

Innovation is a key component of engaging students in the classroom today. **Amy Bumpus**, teacher at Lincoln Middle School, has found a way to do just that. And her work was recognized this school year by the Pullman Education Foundation.

The Pullman Education Foundation, committed to supporting the Pullman School District, awarded the inaugural Innovation Grant to Bumpus in August, 2017. The \$10,000 award was used to purchase Chromebooks which are used to collaboratively teach English to all Pullman middle school students.

“I knew that it would be an awesome thing to have a class set of Chromebooks, but I don’t think I fully grasped just how incredible and important it would be until now. It has been fantastic,” Bumpus reported this past fall semester. Collaborations have begun not only across science classrooms, but also subjects. There is work being done with the teaching team in social studies as well.



and the way that platform form allows me to differentiate instruction. Here you can see a portion of my classroom stream—in it you can see 4 separate assignments, tailored to individual needs that I’ve given to small groups of students,” Bumpus wrote in a December update.

Funding for this type of award is made possible through private support from community members who give to the unrestricted fund at the PEF. Annual appeals for this tax-deductible support will be sent in early 2018.

Applications for the 2018-2019 Innovation Grant are available now through the Pullman School District with a deadline of March 1, 2018. Funding will be available to the selected grant winner in August 2018.

The Foundation (PEF) was established in 1994 to improve the quality of education within the Pullman School District by providing resources for programs for which federal, state and local funding is inadequate and to further improve the quality of education and enhance community support for public education.



For more information about the Innovation Grant, or about the Pullman Education Foundation, please contact Board President **Sandra Albers** at pullmaneducationfoundation@gmail.com

Visit the Pullman Education Foundation at: pullmaneducationfoundation.org



Bumpus went on to write, “Having access to Chromebooks any time we want them allowed us to do a fairly involved project the first week of school.”

The Innovation Grant has a goal of supporting projects and programming that will allow teachers, teams, or buildings to implement innovative learning initiatives that are not currently in the District budget. Projects must be approved and endorsed by the District, building leadership, and any other teachers involved in the concept.

Focusing on meeting students where they are individually through learning and educational experience is a side benefit Bumpus didn’t necessarily build in to her proposal, but has grown from the project.

“Another way that learning has been enhanced in my classroom is through the use of Google Classroom

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The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Roberta Kramer**, Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509.332.3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

Child Find 2017-2018

Early Childhood Developmental Screening

PULLMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ensuring Learning While Challenging and Supporting Each Student to Achieve Full Potential

WHO: Children - Birth through 5 years of age who are living in the Pullman School District, including children who may be living in a temporary or homeless situation.

WHAT: This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children with disabilities and to address potential concerns.

WHEN: Friday mornings during the 2017-2018 school year:

- September 8th
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- January 5th
- February 2nd
- March 2nd
- April 13th
- May 4th

WHERE: Community Child Care Center/Head Start
530 NW Larry Street (aka Greyhound Way) (behind Pullman High School)
Pullman, WA



For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact:

Paula Bates
State & Federal Special Programs Coordinator
Phone: 509-332-3144



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