

What is Family Literacy?

Pam Brantner, Sunnyside Elementary Principal

Family Literacy is a type of literacy education that emphasizes bringing reading and writing into the home and making it a family activity. According to a study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, children with a “richer home literacy environment displayed higher levels of reading knowledge and skills than did their counterparts with less rich home literacy environments.” Family literacy is imperative in creating a foundation for children’s learning experiences, it all starts with the connection between the school and parents.

Parents: A Child’s First Teacher

As mentioned by the Urban Child Institute, a child’s brain develops at a rapid rate during their early life. By age 3, the brain has reached 80% of its adult size. Developmental experiences in these years determine the organizational and functional status of the mature brain. This is an important time in a child’s life to talk to them, look at pictures, and read books with them so they get as much exposure as they can before they begin formalized school. Parents teach their child how to navigate the world, and when parents take time to do these things, they are teaching them healthy reading habits for life.

In the earliest stages of a child’s life, it is important to instill a love of “books” in their lives. Just asking the child to use their imagination and create a storyline for the book themselves, teaching them various sounds, and asking them questions can help develop important habits surrounding literacy. When the families make this a routine and enjoy these activities together, the building blocks of early reading success are being set up.

Another example of teaching with play! Two students learn terms like “through” by crawling through a tunnel at one of our Family Literacy sites.



A picture of a parents and children working together to read the directions during a past STEM family night

Healthy Reading Habits At Home

Here are some ideas to help build reading and literacy components into your family’s daily life. These are based off some of the key indicators of our own Family Literacy Program:

1. Let your child see you reading.
2. Read more than books together -- read road signs, nutritional labels, etc.
3. Let your child pick out the books you read together.
4. Visit the library together.
5. Ask your child questions about the books or pictures.
6. Relate the book to your child’s life.
7. Sing songs and rhymes together with your child.

This incorporation of books into the home is important when looking at future reading and literacy success. Please watch for updates from your school on how to best connect with your schools to increase your child’s literacy learning. There are many events throughout the year that families are invited to connect the school and family in learning while having fun. A few events are STEM nights, Reading Nights, Math Nights, ELD family Nights and many more! This year we were able to connect with families through take home packets that encouraged families to go on a nature scavenger hunt, to reflect on emotions, working on gratitude and cooking at home kits!

A big shout out to Kira Carbonneau, Assistant Chair of Educational Psychology at Washington State University, and her team for helping us to create and support our students with prizes for working on the various tasks! They do so much for us here at Sunnyside Elementary!

PULLMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 267

Summer Meal Program

This summer the district will be offering a free summer meal program (lunch only) for all children 1-18 years of age.

These meals must be eaten at the meal site and will be available at Pullman High School (510 NW Greyhound Way) in the Sculpture Courtyard (track side of PHS).

Dates: June 21 - August 11 (Monday-Thursdays Only)
No meals will be served on July 4.
Time: 11:00am-12:30pm

PULLMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUMMER HOURS

Monday, June 20 - Friday, August 19

Monday	7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday	7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Thursday	7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Friday	7:00 am - 11:00 am
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JACOB GION

Jacob Gion, is currently serving as Superintendent/Athletic Director at Highland School District in Craigmont, Idaho and previously served as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Baker High School in Baker, Montana. Jacob was one of three finalist candidates, and was selected through a rigorous process to be recommended for hire as the LMS Assistant Principal beginning in July, 2022. Jacob Gion emerged as a capable and desirable candidate and we are excited to welcome Mr. Gion to Pullman!

PEF 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jessica Clark Memorial Scholarship	\$1000	Elise McDougle
Class of 1948 Scholarship	\$1000	Colin Bannister
Class of 1956 Scholarship	\$750	Abdur Rahman Islam
Class of 1960 Scholarship	\$1000	Keleigh Myers
Mary Paznokas Scholarship	\$500	Kate Maxwell
Ryan Brindamour Memorial Scholarship	\$1000	Aden Athar
Future Teacher Scholarship	\$2000	Kennedy Knapp
PEO Pullman Chapter S Scholarship	\$1500	Rui (Renee) Sun
Corinne Simasko Memorial Scholarship	\$1900	Adam Carter
Noah Evermann Humanitarian Award	\$2500	Zach Hogg

2022 RETIREES

- **Kym Dye**, *Teacher at Sunnyside Elementary School*
- **Kellie Glaze**, *Counselor at Pullman High School*
- **Craig McCormick**, *Teacher at Pullman High School*
- **Larry McGee**, *Custodian at Pullman High School*
- **Sheryl Nelson**, *Teacher at Franklin Elementary School*
- **Julie Udy**, *District Librarian*

Thank you for your service, dedication and commitment to the students and staff of Pullman Public Schools!

The Pullman High School Boosters Senior Party Committee and PHS Class of 2022 would like to thank the following individuals and companies for their generous support of this year's Senior Party!

- Staples
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- J & H Printing
- Neill's Coffee and Ice Cream
- Target
- Big 5
- Walmart
- Hillard's Heating and Plumbing
- Teresa Cole
- Cornerstone Properties
- Gary Jenkins & the Pullman Police Department
- Susan & William Skavdahl
- Kristi Kurle
- Pullman Lions Club
- Meter Group Foundation
- Myers Auto Rebuild & Towing
- Anites Rentals
- Pullman Grocery Outlet
- Mike Lowery, CPA
- Matt & Lynda Carey
- Pioneer Title Co.
- Jean Logan
- April & Dirk Danninger
- RE/Max Home & Land Management
- Argon Solutions
- DABEC Property Management
- Pullman Student Events
- Marcus Crossler
- Mayor Glenn & Kathy Johnson
- Kiwanis's of Pullman
- Pullman Building Supply
- Sam Dial

We are excited to welcome the newest members to our team for the 2022-2023 school year!



Pullman School District staff have been working diligently to fill open positions for the upcoming school year. Meet the staff members that are new to PSD starting the 2022-2023 school year!

Franklin Elementary

- Brooke Duncan, 4th Grade Teacher
- Laura Medina, Special Education Para
- Erin Rodriguez, Special Education Teacher
- Nathan Schultz, Special Education Teacher
- Hannah Schumsky, 5th Grade Teacher

Kamiak Elementary

- Emily Coombs, 2nd Grade Teacher
- Ryleigh Jans, 1st Grade Teacher

Jefferson Elementary

- Nikki Dehle, School Counselor

Lincoln Middle School

- Jacob Gion, Assistant Principal

Sunnyside Elementary

- Aubrey Anderson, 5th Grade Teacher
- Ava Nelson, Core+ Teacher

Pullman High School

- Altaira Bogle, Family/Consumer Sciences
- Matt Coulter, AP History/Social Studies

Location, TBD

- Brian Anderson, Special Education Para
- Brenda Bartholow, Occupational Therapist
- Holly Bennett, Special Education Para
- Cheyenne Cochran, School-Based Mental Health Therapist
- Katelyn Claassen, Occupational Therapist



We are so glad they have chosen Pullman School District! We will continue to hire staff throughout the summer so we expect to have more new staff joining us as we start the 2022-23 school year!

Thank you also to everyone who bought and displayed a poster or stencil for \$22 apiece. We are grateful for every donation, and the support of the entire community. Working together, we helped make the PHS Class of '22 feel supported and loved! Go Greyhounds!