

Attendance Awareness

Kelly Laird, Sunnyside/Kamiak Elementary Associate Administrator

Happy New Year! To our district families and members, we hope you all had a wonderful winter break.

At the beginning of this 2022-2023 school year, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) along with 10 school districts, including ours, began a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits and importance of attendance for student success and engagement at school.

It is clear that during the coronavirus pandemic, many students missed too much school. At its core, when students miss so much school, they are at risk of not being prepared for future learning. If children don't learn to read by third grade, they are more likely to fail courses in middle school and drop out of high school. As a community, we lose an educated, employable workforce.

Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement. Missing school means missing opportunities to learn and connect socially. Did you know that missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read? Children who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by third grade. Students who cannot read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely than proficient readers to drop out of high school. Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks. In addition, absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher must slow down learning to help children catch up.

Showing up to class is fundamental to learning, but schools have little control over absences and solving the problem is not easy. Chronic absenteeism can stem from a variety of issues including instability at home, work obligations, and illness. We know there are so many contributing factors to why a student may miss school – factors our students have no control over.

Many families, communities, and even school boards are simply not aware of the negative impacts of absences on students' education. Here at Sunnyside, in our district, and throughout the state of Washington, we are working to build Awareness of the Impact of All Absences. For example, Pullman educators strive to create a culture in which all students know we care, by purposefully developing relationships with students and families. We want our students to know that we notice when they do not attend. We monitor attendance data. We meet with students and

parents/guardians when there is an attendance concern to share information, highlighting both the value of attendance and consequences of poor attendance, so that we can work together as a team. We do our best to minimize obstacles by investigating the reasons for absences and offering intervention to help resolve hindrances.

We as educators know that school attendance is a simple, easily understood measure of student performance. Perfect attendance is not the goal because we do not want to encourage students to come to school when they're sick. Our goal, here in Pullman, is to engage students, parents/guardians, educators, and community members to raise awareness of the benefits and importance of attendance for student success.

For more information, go to the OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us and click on:

Student Success | Support Programs | Attendance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Truancy



The Pullman High School Booster Committee would like to send out a sincere thank you to everyone who donated to, or attended and bid at, the Hound Hootenanny Dinner and Auction Fundraiser. Due to the generosity of all of you, we had our best auction ever - raising over \$40,000! This money will enable us to continue giving back to the students in the form of grants to their activities, clubs and athletics. We would especially like to thank our "Big Dog" donors who started things off:

\$1000 Blue Level:

Mike & Dede Boone
Mitch & MaryJo Chandler
Jonny Fisher, DDS
Gesa Credit Union
Pickard Orthodontics
Re/Max Home & Land
Woodbridge Real Estate

\$750 Black Level:

Norm Druffel & Sons

\$500 Grey Level:

Coldwell Banker
Cornerstone Properties
Pullman Lions Club
Rolling Hills Eyecare

\$250 White Level:

Greg & Karin Bloom
Design West Architects
Electrical Contractors NW
Highland Property Management
Hilliard's Heating & Plumbing, Inc
Glenn & Kathryn Johnson
Kiwanis Club of Pullman
Plateau Archaeological Investigations, LLC State Farm
Insurance - Dave Christy Sophomore Class Parents

Gift In Kind

Fork in the Road Catering
Neill's Flowers and Gifts
KQQQ Radio
J&H Printing

A special thanks goes out to all the amazing bakers in town who donated items for the dessert part of the event. We also couldn't have done it without the support of the following individuals: Tina Amend, Miranda Chandler, Marcus Crossler, April Danninger, Sarah Druffel, Crystal Hogg, Morann Johnson, Karen Johnston, Danielle Kallaher, Amy Rogers, Larissa Seeber, Lenore Turman, Aly Welch, and all the student volunteers!

Last of all, thanks to our Co-Chairs for putting the whole thing together: Chris Chandler, Jim Harbour, Jenny Harder, and Amy Tull. See you all next year with a new theme!



Congratulations to our School Board!

The Pullman School District Board of Directors has been selected to receive the 2022 Board of Distinction award from the Washington State School Directors' Association. This high honor recognizes exceptional collaborative leadership, oversight, and dedication to students and the community as well as exceptional levels of correlation between data, board decisions and positive outcomes for students. In this third school year of shifting instructional models and continued health and safety challenges, this year's Boards of Distinction application asked school directors to illustrate how their actions exemplified visionary leadership and helped their school districts close opportunity gaps.

Thank you for serving our community!

Inclement Weather Operating Procedures

Are you familiar with Pullman School District's inclement weather procedures? You can find school closure/delay protocols, a winter weather FAQ, and safety tips on our district website at the URL address below.

https://www.pullmanschools.org/families/helpful_resources/inclement_weather

FAMILIES | HELPFUL RESOURCES
SNOW-SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

If your family is living in any of the following situations:

- In a Shelter
- In a motel or campground due to lack of alternative accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building or bus/train station
- Doubled up with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Think your family qualifies?

Contact our Homeless Liaison:
Paula Perron-Bates
(509) 332-3144
pbates@psd267.org

McKinney-Vento
Serving Students In Transition

ENROLLMENT FOR 2023-2024

NEW STUDENTS CAN BE ENROLLED FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR ONLINE STARTING FEBRUARY 1, 2023

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT

- ✓ Documentation of Student Age
- ✓ Medically Verified Certificate of Immunization Status or Certificate of Immunization Exemption
- ✓ Ages & Stages Questionnaire (Kindergarten Only)

Please visit our website to enroll your student or for more information about enrolling your student for the 2023-2024 school year at www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment

Child Find 2022-2023

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns. This is available to children (birth through 5 years of age) residing, or living in a temporary situation, within Pullman School District's boundaries.

UPCOMING SCREENING DATES:

- ✓ Friday, January 13
- ✓ Friday, February 3
- ✓ Friday, March 3
- ✓ Friday, April 14
- ✓ Friday, May 5

All children ages 5-21 who are suspected of possibly having a disability who reside in, or are living in a temporary situation, within PSD's boundaries are entitled to child find activities. This includes all children enrolled in PSD schools, children who are being home schooled, and children enrolled in a private school located in the district (even if they reside in another district).

For more information or to **schedule an appointment**, please contact Pullman School District's Instructional Programs Office at (509) 332-3144.

The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent, (509) 332-3144, and Section 504 Coordinator, Director of Special Services, (509) 332-3144. 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

Board of Directors

Jim Evermann Director, District 3 jfe@psd267.org	Allison Munch-Rotolo Director, District 2 Amunch-rotolo@psd267.org
Nathan Roberts Director, District 4 nroberts@psd267.org	President Susan Weed Director, District 1 Sweet@psd267.org
Amanda Tanner Director, District 5 atanner@psd267.org	