

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Pam Brantner, Sunnyside Elementary Principal

So, you have heard the terms PLC, PLT and collaborative teams and you wonder what they mean, well, it means educators working together for the betterment of your children. I know you are thinking, isn't that what you have done for years? Well, yes, it is, but did you know that if we focused on teaching every standard to mastery that would take more than 22 years of instruction for your child! So, what we are really doing is looking at each standard to determine whether it is essential to the learning continuum. This is done by examining the standard for the following:

- Readiness - How important is this standard for student success in a new unit, course of study, or in the next grade level?
- Endurance - How important is this standard for student success? Are these concepts and skills that last over time?
- Assessed - How important is this standard for student success on career, national, state or college assessments?
- Leverage - How important is this standard for student success in multiple content areas? These are the standards that we must ensure that each student master by the end of their academic year.

After the essential standards are finalized, as a team we develop a shared understanding of assessments and implement common formative assessments. These assessments are team-designed, with the purpose of monitoring student attainment of essential learning targets throughout the instructional process. In addition to providing information about which students need additional support or extension, common formative assessments allow teams to examine the effects of their practice, and gain insight as to which instructional strategies yield high levels

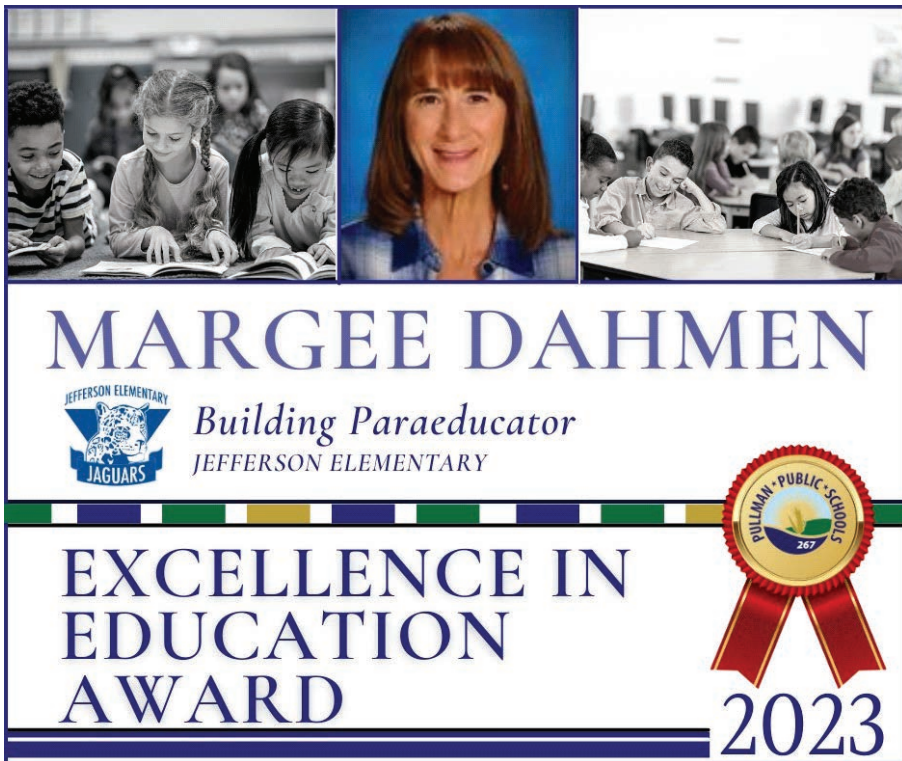
of learning. Furthermore, the data can be used to provide frequent feedback to students that they can use to adjust their own learning strategies. These are used to analyze evidence of student learning and use that evidence to learn from one another and respond to the individual needs of students (WIN time). WIN Time, also known as "What I Need" time, is specific intervention or extensions that are created specifically for each student.

So, what does this mean and why do we have it? WIN time is designed to help each student where they are in their learning. With our school district and Sunnyside continuing with our important Professional Learning Community (PLC) work, we continue to focus on the four questions:

- What do we want students to know?
- How will we know students know?
- How will we respond when some students do not learn?
- How will we extend the learning for students who already know?

WIN time is helping us with those last two questions. Teachers look at class data from assignments, tests, checkpoints, or something similar and see what the class needs for their twenty to thirty minutes of daily WIN time. So, if a student is struggling with fractions (for example), they may meet with the teacher in a small group during this time. If a student already understands fractions, they may create a board game for their classmates to play. Other students may focus on fractions with independent work. Think about how much our stars will learn with this time!

The Monday morning collaboration makes our staff better educators, which in turn makes your students better learners, who will be better prepared for life.



Margee Dahmen named

2023 "Excellence in Education" Recipient

Margee Dahmen, Jefferson Elementary Building Paraeducator, has been named the recipient of the "Excellence in Education" honor from our school board! Each year, the board selects one classified employee to receive this recognition. Margee was recommended for this recognition by Jefferson Elementary Principal, Jim Bruce, who was so inspired by how Margee consistently demonstrates her true belief in all children and in making a connection with every single Jefferson Jaguar.

Margee has served the Pullman School District for 20 years! Principal Bruce shared, "Two of Jefferson Elementary School's Cultural Beliefs are "We Believe" (Children succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed.) and "We Connect" (Children succeed

when they have meaningful, sustainable relationships with caring adults.). From my first year as the principal at JES five years ago and prior to the adoption of Kids at Hope there was one staff member that immediately stood out to me as already possessing the fore-mentioned beliefs and that person was Margee Dahmen. Margee has two primary roles at Jefferson, supervision and instruction. Margee's experience coupled with her knowledge and connection with virtually every student makes for a safe playground and cafeteria environment for all students. Margee is the ideal playground and cafeteria supervisor in that she is constantly moving about these areas supervising, assisting, and reinforcing her meaningful relationship with the students. If I have question regarding a student's behavior or connections on the playground or cafeteria, Margee is always able to provide me with the necessary information. It's truly amazing how much Margee knows about every student and their playground or cafeteria behavior. Margee can do this while still ensuring that these areas are safe for all students."

Congratulations Margee! Pullman School District thanks you for your many years of service!

2022 Excellence in Education Nominees:

- **Rosemary Fleener**, *Special Education Paraeducator at Lincoln Middle School. Rosemary has served the Pullman School District for almost 12 years!*
- **Amber Deeds**, *CTE Program Secretary/Career Specialist at Pullman High School. Amber has served the Pullman School District for almost 12 years!*
- **Reem Nasralla**, *Special Education Paraeducator at Sunnyside Elementary School. Reem has served the Pullman School District for 7 years!*

Pullman School District thanks you all for your many years of service!

Evolving into a More Sustainable School District

Amanda Tanner, Board Director District 5

Over the past several years the Pullman School District has been putting a significant amount of effort into becoming more sustainable. One of the first steps in this process was to create a committee. This Sustainability Committee is a district wide committee comprising of district and building administrators, teachers from each of our six schools, students from our middle and high school, and a school board member. Once the committee was formed, they worked together to establish a list of priorities, and brainstormed where to start their efforts. The Sustainability Committee has worked to identify and prioritize themes/initiatives for the committee aligning with the district and community's needs. These priorities include:

- Reducing food waste and continue expanding composting efforts;
- Reducing packaging waste;
- Focusing on curriculum and coursework (i.e. Curriculum and Technical Education), including professional development for staff (Pacific Education Institute), and the creation of an environmental education resource library to identify and address gaps and opportunities for community partnership;
- The implementation of electric buses; and,
- The creation of a comprehensive plan for creating outdoor green spaces on school campuses.

There has been a lot of action in all of the committee priorities, especially in transportation, food service, and creating green spaces at our schools. In transportation, adding electric buses has been a focus of the district to reduce emissions. Thanks to our Director of Operations, Joe Thornton, who has diligently kept us on top of getting grants submitted, we have had success. On October 21, 2023, we purchased a new electric bus with a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology, with another grant in the works. We also have a grant application pending for another electric bus from the U.S. EPA. When we built our

new transportation center a few years ago, it was outfitted with two bus charging stations and has the infrastructure to add more charging stations. We also have EV charging stations at Kamiak Elementary School and Pullman High School (two at each school), and we are working with Avista on a grant to add more EV charging stations at other district sites. In food service, besides the effort to implement composting, we are also working to reduce the paper and packaging use in the school kitchens. The schools have eliminated the use of Styrofoam packaging for meal service and reduced the use of paper “boats” when serving meals. The kitchens are using more reusable items, such as washable trays and silverware. Current projects in creating green spaces include native prairie restoration projects at Kamiak Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Pullman High School. The School Board also encouraged a continued plan for planting trees at all our schools.

Another exciting thing to share is Pullman High School has its own Environmental Club, and they have been selected to present at the Environmental and Sustainability Literacy Student Summit. The summit invites student teams from across the state to bring project displays that highlight learning and student activities focused on climate and environmental education topics. They will have the opportunity to present their projects to Washington state department agency leaders, state policy leaders, and legislators on February 23-24, 2024, in Olympia, WA.

Throughout the work of the committee, it has always been important to engage our students in the processes. We continue to look into grant funding and community partnerships to further support our efforts.

The opinions expressed in Board Reports are those of individual school board members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the board as a whole or of Pullman Public Schools.

PHS Boosters
Christmas Tree Sales Start Nov. 27!

We are excited to offer Christmas tree sales to our community to raise funds! We are teaming up with Pullman Building Supply at Pullman Building Supply (400 SE Fairmount Dr). Sales will begin Monday, November 27th and will continue through Friday, December 15th.

Christmas Tree Sales Hours
Monday-Friday: 3:30pm-6:00pm
Saturdays: 8:00am-6:00pm and Sundays: 9:00am-5:00pm

Make your Christmas Merry & Bright and purchase your tree from PHS Boosters and Pullman Building Supply!

Student Groups, Clubs, Activities and Sports Teams will assist with sales during various hours and will offer excellent choices of trees and service to assist you with choosing your tree.

PHS BOOSTER COMMITTEE

Child Find 2023-2024
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 12
- ✓ Friday, February 2
- ✓ Friday, March 1
- ✓ Friday, April 5
- ✓ Friday, May 3

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

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