

PHS STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Juston Pollestad, Pullman High School Principal



The Pullman High School (PHS) Student Ambassadors program is a testament to our school's dedication to promoting open communication and collaboration between students and the administration. Established with the primary goal of enhancing the overall school experience, this initiative has become an invaluable channel for information exchange within the PHS community.

The program's origins can be traced back to the recommendation of our Superintendent, Dr. Maxwell, who advocates for student involvement in shaping the educational landscape. Recognizing the importance of continually refining the school's operations, our administration team embraced the idea of establishing the Student Ambassadors program. This decision marked a pivotal moment in the school's commitment to inclusivity and the active involvement of students in decision-making processes that impact their educational journey.

Acknowledging the maturation process that students undergo from 9th to 12th grade, the program embraces the diverse views of students at different stages of their high school journey.

This recognition contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Our ambassador group consists of two students from each grade level:

- 9th Grade: Sofie Colyar, Aniyah Passmore
- 10th Grade: Jadesola Oloniyo, Daun Park
- 11th Grade: Cecilia Hellmann, Audrey Tan
- 12th Grade: Tianyi Chen, Louise Najjuuko

The Student Ambassadors delve into various topics, from assisting in creating a consistent school-wide phone policy to ensuring student voices are heard when creating new classes. Actively seeking student input, the administration aims to create policies that are not only effective but also considerate of student needs and perspectives.

At the heart of the Student Ambassadors program is a commitment to regular and structured communication. The student group convenes bi-weekly to discuss various aspects of school life, providing a dedicated platform for students to express their thoughts, share concerns, and propose innovative ideas for improvement. The frequency of these meetings ensures a continuous and dynamic feedback loop, creating an environment where student input is not only valued but actively sought.

The program is not merely a forum for discussion; it is a catalyst for action. The Student Ambassadors are actively engaged in projects aimed at enhancing the overall school experience, addressing specific issues raised by students, and spearheading initiatives to foster a positive school culture.

Some of the projects the group is currently working on include:

- An equity panel discussion where students share their experiences and ways to celebrate diversity within our school.
- Sustainability initiatives, such as minimizing food waste, using fewer plastic utensils, and building a composting program.

Transparency is a cornerstone of the Student Ambassadors program. At the beginning and end of each academic year, the group takes center stage, presenting their findings, projects, and recommendations to the school board. This commitment to transparency ensures that the broader community understands and appreciates the initiatives being undertaken to continually improve the school environment.

The PHS Student Ambassadors program embodies a proactive and student-centric approach to school improvement. By fostering a culture of collaboration, open communication, and continuous enhancement, the program serves as a model for empowering students to actively contribute to and shape their educational experience.



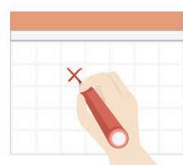
Child Find 2023-2024

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, 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.



ENROLLMENT

OPENS FEB 1, 2024

STARTING FEBRUARY 1, 2024, NEW STUDENTS CAN ENROLL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



5y+ IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE 5 YEARS OLD BY AUGUST 31, 2024, THEN IT WILL BE TIME TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN!

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENROLL:

- ✓ Documentation of student age
- ✓ Up-to-date, medically verified immunization records or Certificate of Exemption
- ✓ Ages & Stages Questionnaire (kindergarten only)

You can find the online enrollment portal along with other information on our website:
www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment

2023 WSSDA Annual Conference

Arron Carter, Board Director District 1

Just as the Pullman School District offers professional development for administrators and teachers, the Board of Directors also receives the same. As part of the many training opportunities I had as a new Director, the one I anticipated most was the annual Washington State School Directors Association (or WSSDA for short). I heard previous Directors talk about this conference with enthusiasm and I was eager to attend and experience this for myself. As with most conferences I have attended, there is always anticipation if attendance will be worth the time. I can say that the 2023 WSSDA annual conference was impressive and surpassed my expectations.

The conference started off with a pre-conference session that targeted new School Board Directors. This session was designed to help new Directors learn what their responsibilities were, and how to successfully interact with other Directors, the superintendent, and members of the community. It was a great opportunity to learn from others with more experience than I have in the position. Ideas were shared about how to improve communications, build community, engage with students, and follow-up with parents when they corner you in the supermarket! It was a fulfilling session, and I came away with many ideas on how to improve my productivity as a Director.

The following two days included seven different sessions, each with multiple breakout sessions to attend. It was hard to pick among all the wonderful topics! At times we discussed who would be attending what session and then divided up to learn all we could, reporting back afterwards. Other times a couple of us found ourselves in the same session due to common interest. The

topics were broad and taught by many different people, sharing their experiences along the way. Some sessions were on student success, with topics ranging from mental health to curriculum development to assessment. Other sessions focused more on procedure, with topics ranging from parliamentary procedure to understanding the business office to how to effectively evaluate the superintendent. There were even sessions run by high school students who discussed how to effectively engage students in Board decisions and how to leverage the student voice. These were very impressive sessions and I loved hearing from the students. Some of the other most impactful sessions I went to were how to effectively engage families to improve student outcome and how to have effective engagement of diverse communities. I don't know if my enthusiasm is coming through in my writing, but sitting here writing this update is getting me motivated again.

As I continue to reflect on this conference, I continue to be amazed at how much I was able to learn from it. Every session was taught with experienced moderators, and the multiple discussions prompted many ideas to engage in during the upcoming year. This was a conference I will never forget and surpassed all my expectations. I am thankful that the Pullman School District Board of Directors participates in this conference every year. It allows for team building among the Board members, and for continued professional development. I hope that I can return from each with newly developed connections, a better understanding of how to be an effective Board members, and reinvigorated for the coming year!



BOARD DIRECTOR DISTRICT 1 - Arron Carter

Director Carter has been elected and will continue to serve our community as Board Director for District 1. Thank you for continuing to serve the students, families, staff, and community members of Pullman.

Email: acarter@psd267.org

Board Liaison for Lincoln Middle School

BOARD DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2 - Lisa Waananen Jones

We are excited to welcome Director Waananen Jones to the Pullman School District Board of Directors as the newly elected director for District 2.

Email: lwaananejones@psd267.org

Board Liaison for Jefferson Elementary

BOARD DIRECTOR DISTRICT 3 - Craig Nelson

We are excited to welcome Director Nelson to the Pullman School District Board of Directors as the newly elected director for District 3.

Email: cnelson@psd267.org

Board Liaison for Franklin Elementary

Director Nathan Roberts continues to serve our community as Board Director for District 4 and Director Amanda Tanner continues to serve as Board Director for District 5.



Thank you Director Munch-Rotolo and Director Evermann!

All of us here at Pullman Public Schools want to take this time to thank Director Allison Munch-Rotolo and Director Jim Evermann for their service as dedicated members of the Pullman School District Board of Directors.

Dr. Munch-Rotolo served as a member of our school board for 13 years, and Dr. Evermann served as a member of our school board for 17 years. Their passion for education, combined with their vision and leadership, has been the cornerstone of our district's progress and success over the years. We thank them for their commitment, dedication, and invaluable service to the students, families, staff, and community members of Pullman, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Highly Capable Program Referrals will be accepted March 4-15, 2024

Referral forms for current K-11th grade students to receive highly capable services during next school year will be accepted March 4 - 15. 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 Highly Capable Program, the program referral process, or to find referral resources please follow the link below. On March 4, the referral submission link will also be available here.

https://www.pullmanschools.org/departments/teaching-and-learning/highly_capable_program

For further questions, please contact the 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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