

**GLENDALE-RIVER HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LITERACY**

WHEREAS, the Glendale River Hills School Board believes that literacy is a fundamental human right and the International Literacy Association delineates Children's Rights to Excellent Literacy Instruction: Children have the right to knowledgeable and qualified educators; children have the right to integrated support systems; children have the right to supportive learning environments and high-quality resources; and children have the right to policies that ensure adequate literacy instruction; and

WHEREAS, being able to read with comprehension provides a solid foundation for learning in other disciplines, for engaged citizenship, and for exercising adult responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, at least one out of seven people aged 15 and above, worldwide, lacks basic literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, becoming a proficient reader is a source of student pride and joy, impacts feelings of self-efficacy, and provides a foundation for the mastery of other subject matter; and

WHEREAS, readers who struggle, including the 20% with dyslexia and other reading disabilities, can learn to read when taught by skilled educators using research-based curricula; and

WHEREAS, all students can benefit from the instructional strategies and curricula that students with reading disabilities require to become proficient readers; and

WHEREAS, our strategic plan charges us with closing opportunity gaps; and

WHEREAS, our vision is to create a community that pursues equity, where each person belongs and thrives, we embrace reading about experiences and cultures different than one's own to foster understanding and community; and

WHEREAS, our district is committed to offering a culturally responsive curriculum that honors the identities of our diverse student body and being represented in literature can help students feel seen, less isolated, and more engaged; and

WHEREAS, this is the first year of implementing Wisconsin Act 20, legislation that requires schools to use evidence-based reading practices and curricula, our district is supplementing our curriculum and, where necessary, aligning all reading instruction with science-based practices; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities remain in our district's reading scores across different populations; and

WHEREAS, while our educators have received significant professional development in how to teach all readers, we know much work remains to be done.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 4th day of September, the Board of the Glendale-River Hills School District recognizes UNESCO International Day of Literacy on September 9th, designed to remind policy-makers, practitioners, and the public of the critical importance of literacy for creating a more literate, just, peaceful, and sustainable society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we celebrate this year's Day of Literacy theme of promoting multilingual education: literacy for mutual understanding and peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we honor our educators for the extensive professional development they have undertaken to keep up with evidence-based practices in reading and for the hard work they do every day to increase reading proficiency and a love of reading in our students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we honor the effort that students put into reading, with a special emphasis on the students for whom reading presents a difficult challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our existing commitment to using evidence-based practices to help all students become proficient readers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will continue to offer high-quality, culturally responsive materials in the classroom and the library, and work to ensure that students can recognize themselves in the books they read; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will work to ensure that reading materials are bias-free and student-centered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will also continue to offer materials that expose students to cultures and experiences outside their own to cultivate a deeper understanding of the world around them and a deeper sense of appreciation and empathy for those who are different from themselves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit to continued growth and responsiveness as we embrace our responsibility to facilitate literacy in all children.

Adopted this 4th day of September, 2024.

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