



# Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

Dear WPS Families,

Over the next few weeks, I will highlight some of the instructional approaches we use at Wyoming Primary Schools to provide all students with the building blocks needed for the future. This week, I will share information about a key component of our reading instructional practices, Orton-Gillingham.

At Wyoming Primary Schools, we are dedicated to delivering literacy instruction that meets the diverse needs of all learners. As part of this commitment, we offer Orton-Gillingham (OG) instruction—a research-based approach that has been proven to support foundational reading and writing skills, especially for students who experience difficulties with literacy, including those with Dyslexia. The Orton-Gillingham method is a structured, multisensory approach that engages students by connecting visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile pathways. This helps students make meaningful connections with language, enhancing their decoding, spelling, and writing abilities. Our skilled teachers, who receive specialized training in OG instruction, are able to tailor lessons to each child's needs, providing essential support and early intervention to foster reading success for every student.

## Key Reasons for Providing Orton-Gillingham Instruction:

### 1. Evidence-Based Approach:

- **Proven Effectiveness:** Orton-Gillingham is a well-established, evidence-based approach to literacy instruction that has been proven effective in helping students develop foundational reading and writing skills. Its use at Wyoming Primary Schools ensures that students receive instruction grounded in research, which is particularly important for those struggling with literacy.

### 2. Structured, Multisensory Instruction:

- **Engaging Multiple Senses:** OG instruction is multisensory, meaning it engages visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile pathways to enhance memory and learning of written language. This approach helps students understand the relationship between sounds and letters, making it easier for them to decode words, spell accurately, and write effectively.

### 3. Individualized Learning:

- **Tailored to Student Needs:** The Orton-Gillingham approach is highly individualized, allowing instructors to tailor lessons to the specific needs of each student. This personalization is especially valuable at Wyoming Primary Schools, where students may have varying levels of literacy proficiency. By adapting instruction to each learner, OG helps ensure that all students make meaningful progress.

### 4. Support for Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia:

- **Specialized Instruction:** Students with characteristics of Dyslexia often struggle with traditional reading instruction methods. OG is specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by these students. By providing targeted instruction that aligns with how students with Dyslexia learn best, Wyoming Primary Schools helps these students develop the skills they need to succeed academically.

### 5. Early Intervention:

- **Preventing Future Difficulties:** Early identification and intervention are crucial for preventing long-term reading difficulties. By offering OG instruction, Wyoming Primary Schools can provide early support to students showing signs of reading struggles, helping to prevent these issues from becoming more severe and ensuring that students are on track for academic success.

### 6. Comprehensive Skill Development:

- **Focus on All Literacy Components:** Orton-Gillingham instruction addresses all key components of literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This comprehensive approach ensures that students at Wyoming Primary Schools develop the full range of skills needed to become proficient readers and writers.

### 7. Consistent Progress Monitoring:

- **Data-Driven Instruction:** OG instruction includes regular progress monitoring, which allows teachers to assess how well students are responding to the instruction and make necessary adjustments. This data-driven approach ensures that instruction is effective and responsive to each student's needs.

## 8. Professional Development and Teacher Expertise:

- **Skilled Educators:** Teachers at Wyoming Primary Schools who provide Orton-Gillingham instruction undergo specialized training to effectively implement the approach. This ensures that students receive high-quality instruction from educators who are knowledgeable and skilled in addressing diverse literacy needs.

Orton-Gillingham instruction is provided at Wyoming Primary Schools to support all students, including those who face challenges with reading, spelling, and writing. By offering this structured, multisensory, and individualized approach, we help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop strong literacy skills, setting them up for long-term academic success as confident, capable readers.

Have a great weekend,

Dr. Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

## Counselor Corner

During the past week, the Cowboy TV lessons have focused on organization. Organization is the ability to efficiently arrange materials or thoughts in an orderly fashion. When items are organized they can be easily and efficiently found, and when thoughts are organized information can be readily recalled. You can help your child develop his/her organization skills by assisting your child with setting up organizational systems and explaining the importance of doing so. In order to help further improve your child's organization skills, two activities that you can adapt and do at home are described in [this document](#).

## Partnering for a Safe & Supportive School Environment

At Wyoming Primary Schools, ensuring the safety and well-being of every student is our highest priority. To maintain a positive and secure learning environment, we ask for your support in speaking with your child about the importance of using school-appropriate language and responses at all times.

Even at a young age, students may sometimes express frustration or emotions that could be interpreted as threatening. Please help your child understand that words and actions matter and that our school takes any statements about harm, even those made in jest, very seriously.

In accordance with district policy, any concerning language or behavior will be thoroughly investigated through a threat assessment process. This ensures that we address each situation appropriately while prioritizing the safety of everyone in our school community.

We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing with your child the importance of kindness, respect, and thoughtful communication. Together, we can continue to foster a safe and supportive environment where every child can learn and grow.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our assistant principal, John Hill.

## **WPS Mission, Vision, & Core Values**

We are excited to invite you to play an important role in shaping the future of Wyoming Primary Schools. As part of our commitment to creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students, we are developing new vision, mission, and core values statements specific to WPS. Your input will help ensure that these guiding principles reflect the shared hopes and values of our entire school community.

### **Why this matters:**

Our vision, mission, and core values statements serve as a foundation for decision-making and set the direction for the experiences we create for every child. These statements guide our work, relationships, and goals as we strive to make Wyoming Primary Schools a place where all students thrive.

### **What do each of these mean?**

- **Vision Statement:** Our vision is a clear picture of what we aspire to achieve in the future. It answers the question: *Who do we want our students to become, and what kind of environment do we want to create to help us achieve this vision?*
- **Mission Statement:** Our mission describes our purpose and the role we play in students' lives. It answers the question: *What is our primary goal, and how do we aim to achieve it for our students?*
- **Core Values:** These are the fundamental principles that shape how we approach our work and relationships each day. They answer the question: *What values should guide our decisions, actions, and interactions within our school community?*

**We would love to hear from you!** Please take a few minutes to [answer the three questions in this survey](#) to share your insights on our vision, mission, and core values. Your feedback will help us create a meaningful foundation that reflects the hopes and aspirations we all have for Wyoming Primary Schools.

Thank you for being a part of this important process!

# School Fees are Now Due

Please log into your child's EZPay account to see if you have any fees due: [EZPay Link](#)

## Implications for Non-Fee Payment

If a student is not up-to-date with payment of student fees (or is not current with their payment plan with the Treasurer\*), the following privileges will be withheld:

- 4th Grade Class Trip
- 6th Grade Class Trip (e.g. Camp Kern)
- 7-12 Dances (e.g. Homecoming, Prom, etc)
- 8th Grade Class Trip (e.g. Chicago)
- 9-12 Class Shirts
- Junior/Senior Parking Spots
- Senior Class Trip (e.g. Washington D.C.)
- Graduation Tickets
- College Transcripts

\*If a family is not able to pay, please contact our Treasurer, Ronda Johnson, who will work with the family to set up an appropriate payment plan schedule.

## Upcoming Dates

- **Thanksgiving Break** - Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29 - No School for Students or Staff
- **Winter Parties** - Friday, December 20
  - Half-Day Kindergarten Party - 10:30-11:15
  - Full-Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 Parties - 2:30-3:15
- **Winter Break** - December 23rd - January 3rd
- **Professional Development Day - No School for Students** - January 6th

[View the full WCS calendar here.](#)

## News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday: WCS Receives Refund fro County Auditor's REA Fund
- WPS Bond Issue Passes: Thank You, Wyoming!
- Upcoming Events
- WyoShop Hours
- WSF's Lighted Forest Walk Nov. 19-21

- Wyoming Firefighters Association Turkey Raffle on Nov. 22 & 23
- Aikido Classes @ Wyoming Rec Center
- JWC Light Up Wyoming Luminary Sales Events Dec. 4 & 7

## **Photos from the Week**

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the week at WPS!