

ELL DEPARTMENT

Newsletter

1ST QUARTER

Happy 2026-2027 School Year!

Greetings...

Welcome to the English Language Learner Department's first newsletter of the 2026-2027 school year!

We will start the year off screening new students and work on schedules for our continuing elementary and middle school English learners. High school students will be placed in the first period ESL class.

About the Program

Elementary and Middle Schools: Students meet with our EL teachers either in small groups or one-on-one.

High School: Students meet with the EL teacher for a designated class period.

Instruction: Instruction is tailored to students' needs. We use English language development curriculum from National Geographic, which features high interest topics and engaging content.

Important Events

First Day of School: September 8th

Post Falls High School Open House: September 23rd, 5:30-7:00

End of First Quarter: November 5th

Parent Teacher Conferences: November 19th, evening; November 20th, morning

Thanksgiving Break: November 25th-27th

Click this link to see important events happening at your student's school:

<https://www.pfsd.com/parents-students/calendars>

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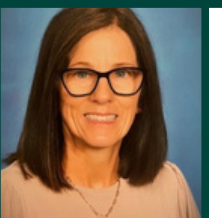
Brenda Valentine graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in 2016. She attended MSU again for graduate school and completed her Master of Arts degree in TESOL in May of 2022. She has been a teacher of English Learners since 2017. When not teaching, she loves spending time in nature with her husband and their two huskies, Nya and Kai.

Mrs. Valentine serves Post Falls and New Vision High Schools, Post Falls Middle School, and Mullan Trail, Ponderosa, and Prairie View Elementary Schools.



Acadia Babin graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education in 2018. She has worked as a 6th, 5th, and 4th grade teacher for 6 years. In 2020, she received an endorsement in English as a Second Language. She attended Southern Utah University and completed a Master of Arts degree in Education in April of 2024. This is her third year as a teacher of English Learners. She enjoys visiting the Kitty Cantina on her days off.

Ms. Babin serves Greensferry, Seltice, Treaty Rock, and West Ridge Elementary schools, and Post Falls and River City Middle Schools.



Julie Geraghty has worked as a teacher's aide/title paraprofessional in the Post Falls School District since 2013. Before coming to the PFSD, she worked in the Coeur d'Alene School District for several years. She joined the ELL Department in 2023, bringing with her years of experience of instructing students. She is adventurous, enjoying all outdoor activities with her husband, children, grandchildren, and her black lab Mabel.

Mrs. Geraghty helps provide instruction at: Seltice, West Ridge, Greensferry, and Treaty Rock Elementary Schools.



Sarah Triphahn is our ELL coordinator. She has been with PFSD for 14 years - 9 years as a classroom teacher at Prairie View and 5 years as an administrator at Ponderosa. She attended elementary school at Ponderosa, and her mother was a teacher there, as well. Both Ponderosa and the entire school district are very special to her. When she is not at work (or thinking about work), she likes to spend time with her 3 dogs, Stanley, Tony, and Nola. They keep her very busy!

Contact the ELL Department

Our main office is located at Ponderosa Elementary. In addition to email, you may also contact our team members by calling Ponderosa Elementary at 208-773-1508.

Acadia Babin: acadia.babinesd273.com
Brenda Valentine: brenda.valentineesd273.com

Sarah Triphahn: sarah.triphahnesd273.com