Elizabeth Forward Title I Reading News

Fall into READING

Fall 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, October 12th
Two-Hour Delay for Students
Monday, October 19th
No School
Tuesday, October 20th
Title I Reading Family Fun Night (see details to right)
Tuesday, November 3rd
No School for Students
Wednesday, November 4th
End of First Nine Weeks
Monday, November 9th
No School
Parent - Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, November 25th
Early Dismissal
Thursday, November 26- Monday, November 30th
Thanksgiving Break - No School
Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1st
Winter Break - No School
Friday, January 22nd
End of Second Nine Weeks
Monday, January 19th & Monday, January 25th
No School for Students
Tuesday, January 26th
Two-Hour Delay for Students

TITLE I FAMILY FUN NIGHT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

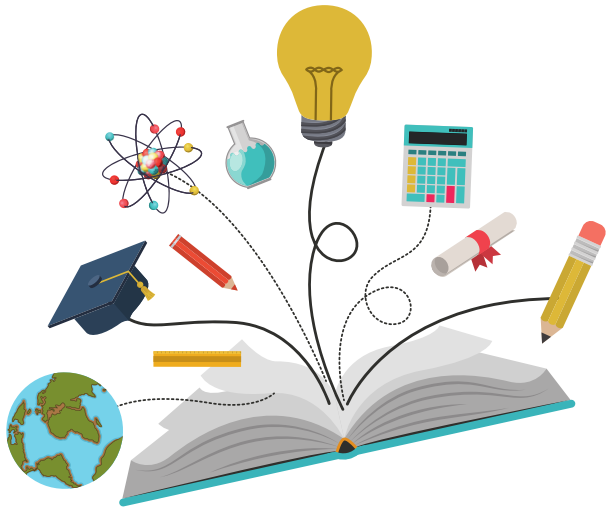
AT WILLIAM PENN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

392 WILLIAM PENN ROAD
FORWARD TOWNSHIP, PA 15063

COME JOIN US FOR:
A PIZZA PARTY, A CARTOONIST,
& PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING!

SCAN HERE TO RSVP!

Questions? email snill@efsd.net



HOW DO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR TITLE I READING SUPPORT?

We never rely on just one aspect of learning to qualify a student! We use multiple criteria such as . . .

- ☑ Support during the previous school year
- ☑ Teacher recommendation
- ☑ Both local and nationally normed assessments

COMPARING STUDENT SUPPORT OPTIONS

	Title I Reading	504 Plan	I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan)
Who is in charge of this department?	the district-wide Title I Coordinator, Dr. Simala	the student's principal	the district-wide special education department head, Mrs. Albensi.
How do students qualify?	Title I Multiple Criteria Rubric	students who have been diagnosed with an eligible **disability** who demonstrate the need for accommodations	students who have been tested by our school psychologist and diagnosed with an eligible **disability** who demonstrate the need for specialized instruction and related services
What are some examples of what students may be eligible to receive through this program?	small group instruction with a certified reading specialist	accommodations to diminish the impact of his or her disability such as extra time to take a test, end of the day check ins with the teacher to make sure the student has materials necessary for	specialized instruction and related services such as math and or reading instruction on the student's ability level as opposed to grade level, speech therapy, occupational therapy
Who provides these services?	Title I Reading Specialists	homeroom teachers, and any other regular education teachers such as art, music, gym	The child's regular education teachers in addition to the learning support teachers and specialists such as speech therapists.



DR. SIMALA

Dr. Simala is the principal of William Penn Elementary and the Title 1 coordinator for the Elizabeth Forward School District. Dr. Simala is starting his 29th year in education where he has served as a special education teacher, elementary, middle, and high school principal. He received his bachelor's degree from Edinboro University, master's degree from California University of Pennsylvania, and his doctorate degree from Drexel University. In his spare time, Dr. Simala is an avid hunter and fisherman. He often spends most of his time on his farm in Ohio. Dr. Simala is married to Mrs. Simala, second grade teacher at Central Elementary School. Dr. Simala has been the Title 1 coordinator since 2006. If you have any questions about the program, please contact him at: bsimala@efsd.net or 412-896-2330.



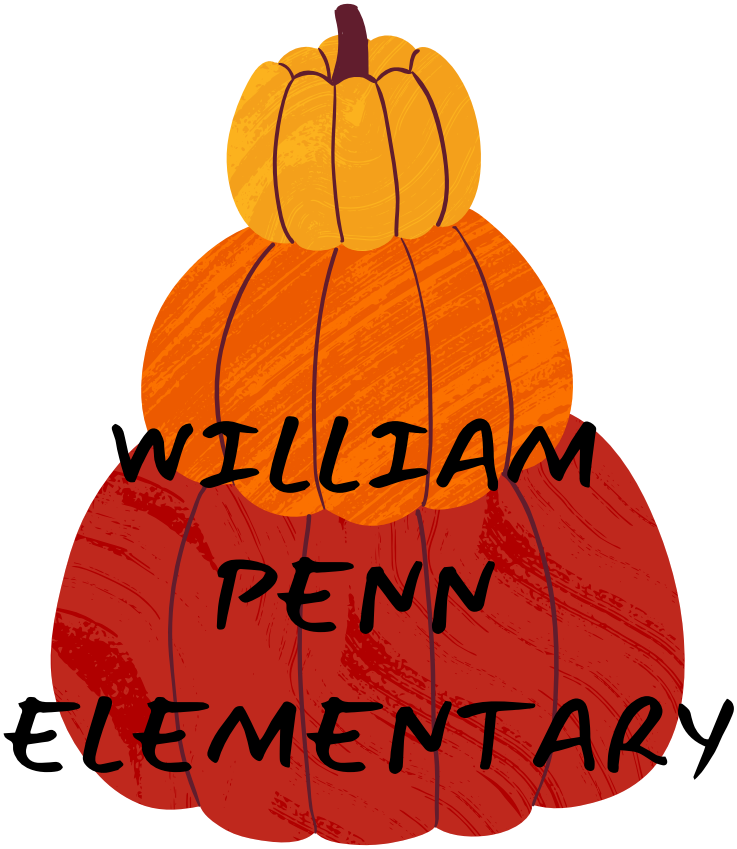
MRS. FRANCIA

Mrs. Francia is a Reading Specialist at William Penn Elementary for students in grades 3-5. This is her 32nd year of teaching in the Elizabeth Forward School District. She taught 9 years as an elementary classroom teacher and is beginning her 23rd year as a Title I Reading Specialist. Mrs. Francia has an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Reading, with certification as a K-12 Reading Specialist. Mrs. Francia's husband teaches seventh grade Math at Elizabeth Forward Middle School. In her spare time, she loves to golf, swim, exercise, and spend time with family and friends. Mrs. Francia loves being a Reading Specialist and helping students in small groups as well as assisting with special reading or writing activities in the core Reading classroom. Please feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the Title I Reading program: bfrancia@efsd.net or 412-896-2330, ext. 7674.



MRS. NILL

Mrs. Nill is the Title I Reading Specialist for 1st & 2nd grade at William Penn Elementary. Mrs. Nill holds degrees in Early Childhood Education, Reading, and Administration. Although she has been teaching for 25 years, Mrs. Nill didn't come to Elizabeth Forward until 2005. Mrs. Nill is married and has three sons aged 15, 19, and 22. Mrs. Nill loves to spend time outdoors with her family down-hill skiing, cross country skiing, boating, and hiking. She also loves to travel. Please feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the Title I Reading program: snill@efsd.net or 412-896-2330, ext. 7662.





DR. BURNS

Dr. Burns is the principal of Greenock and Mount Vernon Elementary Schools. This is her 25th year in education. After working as a High School Social Studies teacher, Dr. Burns transitioned into administration where she has worked in buildings Pre-K-12. She holds bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and a masters from Carnegie Mellon University. When she is not chasing her new puppy, Dr. Burns loves to spend time with Mr. Burns, reading, and watching sports on TV. Should you have any questions about the program, contact Dr. Burns at lburns@efsd.net or 412-896-2323.



MISS TOBIAS

Miss Tobias is the reading specialist for students in kindergarten through second grade at Greenock Elementary School. She is entering her 11th year teaching at Elizabeth Forward School District! For her first eight years, Miss Tobias taught reading in fourth grade at Mount Vernon Elementary School. Miss Tobias attended Waynesburg University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She also received her Reading Specialist certificate from the University of Pittsburgh. When she is not at school, Miss Tobias loves to hang out with her family and friends, visits local coffee shops around Pittsburgh, and enjoys relaxing around a fire pit. Do not hesitate to reach out to her with any questions about the Title I Reading program: rtobias@efsd.net or 412-896-2324 ext. 7496.

GREENOCK ELEMENTARY & MOUNT VERNON ELEMENTARY



MRS. PITTMAN

Mrs. Pittman is the Reading Specialist at Mt. Vernon Elementary. This is her 24th year of teaching reading in the Elizabeth Forward School District. Mrs. Pittman has degrees in Elementary Education, Reading, and Library Science.When Mrs. Pittman isn't at school, you will often find her in the theatre where she enjoys choreographing musicals and teaching dance. Mrs. Pittman is married and has two sons ages 17 & 19. Mrs. Pittman enjoys working with her students and loves sharing her passion for books and reading. Please feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the Title I Reading program: cpittman@efsd.net or 412-896-2327 ext. 7503