

Brian Pahl

Bellingham, Washington



Brian is the “New Kid” at Shuksan Middle School in Bellingham, WA, and “Middle School is (NOT) the Worst Years of My Life!” After 8 years teaching grades 2-4 and 7 years as a TOSA and Instructional Coach, Brian made the move to middle school. He will be teaching 8th grade language arts, social studies, and AVID.

The Book Love Foundation grant is crucial in helping Brian build his classroom library from scratch. Brian believes that language and literacy is powerful, and he tries to empower students to engage meaningfully each day. A large, diverse classroom library gives students more opportunities to choose texts to read for pleasure and entertainment, but more importantly to read texts that help them learn, connect with, and better understand themselves and their community.

Brian is passionate about learning and being curious. He models this regularly for his students and is known to possibly overuse “Oh, I have a question about that!” By making it safe to question, he aims to center student voice and experiences rather than content. Brian is also committed to equity and has been inspired by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Cornelius Minor, Jess Lifshitz and others to build with students a classroom space that is safe, inclusive and honors all voices and stories. Thank you so much to the Book Love Foundation and everyone who contributes to it. We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity.