

Autobiography:

I am Julie Johnson and Loomis Public School has been my home since 1994. In my initial tenure here, I taught French for six years. My teaching assignment changed in 2000 and since then, it has included English 7-12, Reading 7 & 8, creative writing, speech, and Applied Communications. I've worn many hats and change is my game.

Agriculture has surrounded me all my life, but growing up on a farm in Phelps County did not limit my opportunities. As a child, I enjoyed hearing my dad's reminiscences of his WWII tour of duty in California, England, Belgium, Germany and France. His stories and the cultural experiences my parents afforded me sparked my desire to go to college, to see the world and to learn to speak French. Upon my graduation from Holdrege High School, I pursued my goal and earned a bachelor's degree in French from Nebraska Wesleyan University. The summer after my graduation, a trip to Europe and a stint of intensive French language schooling served to confirm my desire to teach French. At that time, having become engaged to my future, farmer husband, Brian Johnson, it appeared that agriculture might fence me in. Nevertheless, I went on to earn a master's degree in English and obtained my teaching certification in French and English from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Amazingly the patchwork of my life gradually came together when Loomis Public School advertised the need for a French teacher. For six years, I was privileged to teach French here. As curricular needs changed in the school, I was blessed to remain here by teaching English.

Outside of school, family is my priority. My husband and I are blessed to have three children. Our oldest child, Ethan and his wife Addison live in Holdrege and farm. Our middle child, Justine graduated from UNK in May of 2023, with a bachelor's degree in education (Elementary Education and K-12 Health and P.E.). She will teach 5-6 Social Studies & Science and coach junior high girls basketball at Blue Hill Community Schools. Jeremiah, our youngest child, will be a sophomore at UNL where he is focusing on Agriculture Economics and is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. When I am not teaching, you may find me following my husband and our children in their extracurricular pursuits.

In my free time, I enjoy a wide variety of activities. Maintaining a flock of laying hens, adapting a new recipe, or listening to Christian radio relaxes and uplifts me. An early riser, you will find me working outdoors in our yard or walking with Oakley, our family dog, along K Road. Reading nonfiction and historical fiction, attending church and cultural events, bicycling, traveling, having tea with friends, volunteering through 4-H or FFA, and gardening are a few other pastimes I enjoy.

Serving at Loomis Public School has been a joyful adventure, as it has privileged me to realize my dreams, make a difference in students' lives, and grow professionally. Along the way, I have had time to raise a family and remain on the farm in this community that I love.

Mission Statement:

It is my mission and desire to engage and encourage students to develop and use their gifts and talents to maximize their potential. With this in mind, the English class environment and activities shall be designed to provide students with opportunities to read, write, and speak, with specific attention given to students' developing skill in comprehension, critical, creative, and abstract thinking, analysis, and effective communication. Along the way, assignments will encourage independence while promoting accountability. Additional personal student outcomes may include, but they are not limited to the following: self-awareness, self-confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation, self-reliance, pride in one's work, cooperation, mutual respect, and intellectual curiosity.

