"Educational attainment is the most important aspect of leading a fulfilling and productive life, and having engaged and enlightened citizens. We need a strong and continuous effort to give students, teachers, and administrators a chance to flourish."

Jud Fisher, president and COO of Ball Brothers Foundation

Professional Development School liaisons often help their school site garner university resources to help meet the specific needs of the school. They help organize student groups, philanthropy groups and other faculty to promote food drives, neighborhood clean-up and beautification as well as community involvement and educational resources.
PDS liaison Amy Leitze is no stranger to the position. Before coming to West View Elementary in 2018, she spent 3 years as a PDS liaison at Storer Elementary working with principal Eric Ambler and the great staff there. She and her husband and their two kids, Nick (12) and Elaina (8) live in Fishers, Indiana along with their two cats, Belle and Shadow. She is in her seventh year at Ball State and has enjoyed teaching a variety of courses.

Of her Ball State course load, Amy says, “I have taught a majority of the courses in our department at least once, but I’m usually teaching literacy courses like Reading and Language Arts Instruction in the Elementary Classroom (EDRD 300), Literacy Assessment and Intervention (EDRD 430), and Organization, Management, and Instruction in the Elementary Classroom (EDEL 300). I also enjoy when I have the opportunity to supervise student teachers.”

She loves her position at West View, in part because it is such a wonderful place full of passionate educators! She sees collaborating with others as the best part of the job!

“I love being able to build and maintain relationships with the staff, the students, and the families of the school. When I’m not working, I enjoy watching my kids engage in their activities and passions - softball (Elaina), trombone (Nick), scouts (both). I also love to cook and bake, sew and quilt, and most of all read.”
“Not every teacher is recognized for the creativity that they bring to the classroom each day- but we’re celebrating the creativity of Adam Cunningham and his approach to teaching his students about the history, and the people and culture of Cuba. Adam, in his 7th year as a Social Studies teacher at Muncie Central High School, was recently awarded a grant of $11,612 by the Lilly Foundation as part of their Teacher’s Creativity Fellowship Program.

“I’m excited to interact with some of our Caribbean neighbors and learn from them,” Cunningham said. “And it’s a great opportunity to experience Cuba, which has been isolated from the United States for so long.”

Want more information? **Check this out!**

You’ve got to be prepared to enter into Michelle Bade’s music classroom at West View Elementary School! The enthusiasm and energy she brings to her subject matter is infectious and her students definitely catch it as they learn in her room! With a Master’s of Music Education and Music Performance, and having taught for more than 20 years, she is more than qualified to lead students in learning instrumental, vocal, and general music.

Michelle lives in Muncie, Indiana with her husband (a professor of Music at Taylor University) and three children: Sarah, Michael, and Ryan. She enjoys running, cycling, hiking and (of course!) music, serves on several state boards, and is active in her church and community. One thing she appreciates about teaching in MCS is the strong and productive partnership with Ball State’s music education department.

“Our BSU Music Education colleagues have been strong advocates at the Indiana Statehouse in helping to write and revise the 2018 Indiana State Music Standards and have been very helpful in providing information and sharing additional resources. The BSU Music Faculty continue to give of their time and talents to benefit our MCS students, teachers and community. We are indeed, “Better Together,” she says.

The Ball State Music Department also sees benefits from the relationship in sending student music educators to Mrs. Bade for their student teaching experience.

“Mrs. Bade taught me so much about working with elementary students and helping them learn to express themselves through music and movement. I loved watching her enthusiasm ignite a passion in her kids!” says one recent student teacher.

Mrs. Bade knows that her connection with Ball State doesn’t stop with the music education department!

“We continue to work with BSU faculty and students in Theater, Dance and Art as we have collaborated in BSU/MCS “Fine Arts Nights” together that have been very positive for students and teachers in project-based learning that also benefit our entire community. We are thankful to have such support for music education from MCS and BSU and we are excited about the future through this strong partnership!”
To foster a professional learning community within our sphere of influence that provides a dynamic network of research and professional development. We do this by identifying and partnering with those educational entities, which provide our students with vital clinical field experiences key to developing appropriate knowledge, skills and dispositions proven to have a positive impact on P12 learning.

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PDS = Professional Development School
BSU = Ball State University
MCS = Muncie Community Schools
OTES-CP = Office of Teacher Education Services and Clinical Practice

WHO IS OTES-CP?
OTTES-CP STAFF

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