

## 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 adaptability to change has become second nature.

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 of Arts in English and obtained my teaching certification in 7-12 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 have three children. Our son, Ethan and his wife Addison live in Holdrege and farm. In the summer of 2024, they became parents of twin girls. Our daughter, Justine Lewis teaches 5-6 Social Studies & Science and coaches high school girls basketball at Blue Hill Community Schools. She and her husband Jared, who farms, were married on June 1, 2024 and live in Campbell, NE. Our son, Jeremiah will be a senior at UNL, where he is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. His major is Agriculture Economics. Outside of school, you may find me enjoying our first grandchildren or following my husband and our children in their extracurricular pursuits.

In my free time, I engage in 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 and Jake our family dogs, along K Road. Reading nonfiction and historical fiction, attending church and cultural events, bicycling, traveling, having tea with friends, serving on the Holdrege Area Public Library Board of Trustees, serving on the executive team of Chapter HM P.E.O, volunteering through 4-H, FFA, or church, 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, my husband and I have farmed and have raised a beautiful family in the community that we 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.