

Dear PULS Parents,

Greetings to you all and welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. As your child's teacher for the next nine months, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little about what you and your child can expect at Happy Kids this year.

I have had the good fortune of having taught your child before, so you are quite familiar with me as a teacher and person. It has been a great joy of mine to have been a part of your lives for many years. To quickly remind you about me, I am from the relatively small city of Lincoln, Nebraska in the United States. There, I attended the University of Nebraska and received my Bachelors of Science degree in Education and a Nebraska State Teaching Certificate. I also hold a Masters of Educational Technology from Boise State University. I moved to Taipei in May 2006 after my wife accepted a position as a professor at National Taipei University of Technology. I have been a Happy Kids teacher now for nearly twenty years and have taught Grade 2, Grade 6, Happy Scientists, our Program for Upper Level Students. I have also been the ASLA Program Principal since 2010. My wife and I have two daughters. Sabrina, our oldest, is in her second year at National Taiwan University, and Athena, who is a 9th grader this year.

The Happy Kids Program for Upper Level Students is now in its twentieth year thanks to the overwhelming support from parents like you. The curriculum I have prepared for this year consists of four thematic units centered around novels and short stories that incorporate concepts from language arts and various social science disciplines.

The focus for this year will be on history, political science, and media and information literacy. I will address these content areas in four novel study units. Our first unit this year will be reading ***Nothing But The Truth*** by Avi. This book looks at how the truth is so difficult to find and opens readers' eyes to the validity of information we find in the news and other sources. For the second unit we will be reading William Bell's ***Forbidden City***. This book deals with the Tiananmen Square Massacre. It will be a great lead into our third unit where we will read ***A Pail of Oysters*** by Vern Schneider. This is one of the first and few novels that deals with Taiwan's "228 Incident". Mr. Schneider was one of the many foreigners who witnessed the events of early February 1949 and retells them in a story of a brother and sister trying to survive. We will end the year with a compelling dystopian novel called ***Feed*** by M. T. Anderson. This book, written in 2002, imagines a future where people are completely dependent on being connected all the time to the Internet through a neural implant. Sound familiar?. The Joined Nations is also back by popular demand. This is a year-long activity that creates a mini United Nations in the classroom! Students will learn about current issues facing the world and how democracies of all kinds function through this activity. For more information visit [joinednations.happykids.taipei](http://joinednations.happykids.taipei).

I promise to treat your child with respect and dignity. I expect my students to do the same to me and their classmates. My expectations for my PULS students are high. Please encourage your child to stay on top of class assignments, especially reading assignments as our limited class time often requires some work and reading outside of class. All class work is posted and can be completed through Google Classroom to make it easy for you to follow class assignments. My email address is [jbrunken@happykids.taipei](mailto:jbrunken@happykids.taipei). Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I'm happy to answer all of your questions at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jason Brunken  
[jbrunken@happykids.taipei](mailto:jbrunken@happykids.taipei)



WHERE LEARNING AND FUN ARE  
ONE.