Developing a Cohesive Literacy Program
Pre-K-8

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What We Know To Be True

Skills needed to thrive in today’s world

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- The ability to communicate effectively
- The ability to collaborate
The Components of Active Literacy

1. Talking and Listening
   - Constructing meaning through writing and drawing
   - Responding to reading by talking
2. Reading to construct meaning
   - Investigating and doing further research
3. Writing and drawing to discover and explore thinking

Investigating and doing further research leads to constructing meaning through writing and drawing, which in turn leads to responding to reading by talking. This process then continues, demonstrating the cyclical nature of active literacy.
Active Literacy

- Reading is Thinking
- We write to think
- Strategic reading and writing across the curriculum
- Student-centered literacy classrooms
- PreK-8 literacy curriculum spirals purposefully to support the integrity of the learning process
- Students learn only as deeply and critically as their teachers engage in active learning (PLC’s)
Our Literacy Journey

2000
- Open Court used
- Teaching in Isolation
- Rote learning

2005
- Pockets of active literacy occurring
- Conversations between PS and MS divisions began
- Inception of All School Literacy Committee
- Lucy Calkins teacher training begins
- I Love Lucy begins

2011
- 2 literacy coordinators
- 6 PLCs
- All staff trained
- BAWP
- Active literacy strategies infuse all disciplines
- Parent education
Our Process
All School Literacy Committee
I Love Lucy PLC

Writing
- Lucy Calkins training
- 1-8 Grammar Articulation
- 1-8 grammar skills mapped out
- 1-8 genres mapped out
- BAWP PD K-8, then 6-8
- Writing Binders created 1-8
- Grammar integrated into writing

Reading
- Strategic reading begins
- Extensive professional development
- Stephanie Harvey visits twice
- Harvey Daniels visits
- Guided Reading Level adopted
- Lit Library created
- DRA adopted
- Parent Ed workshops
- Teen Read
- Reading Blog
- DEAR
Why Wasn’t Grammar Sticking?

- View Video Online
- Grammar curriculum didn’t match what we know to be true
- Brain research
- Inception of Binder Work: Creating a writing based curriculum with grammar integrated into the program
Reading Continuum PreK-8

**PreK**
- Read Alouds
- Think Alouds
- Decoding skills
- Mentor Texts
- Monitor inner conversation
- Variety of Genres explored

**5th Grade**
- Readers Notebooks
- Focused Strategy Instruction
- Match text to student
- Choice
- Monitor inner conversation
- Reading workshops
- Variety of genres explored
- Blogs

**8th Grade**
- Readers Notebooks
- Focused Strategy Instruction
- Match text to student
- Choice
- Monitor inner conversation
- Reading workshops
- Purposeful integration of writing into reading workshops
- Variety of genres explored
- DEAR
- Teen Read
- Blogs
- Integration of Readers’ and Writers’ Workshop

**Integration of Readers’ and Writers’ Workshop**
Writing Continuum
PreK-8

PreK
• Letter Formation
• Writer's workshop
• Sketch to stretch
• Personal Narrative
• Poetry
• Publication

5th Grade
• Writer's Workshop
• Authentic writing strategies taught
• Mentor Texts
• Personal Narrative
• Poetry
• Essay
• Fiction
• Literary Essay
• Informational Writing
• Grammar integrated
• Publication

8th Grade
• Writer's Workshop
• Authentic writing strategies taught
• Mentor Texts
• Personal Narrative
• Poetry
• Fiction
• Literary Essay
• Informational writing
• Grammar integrated
• Publication
• The Almighty Essay
Challenges We've Faced

- Teacher Apprehension
- Scheduling
- Funding
- Differing Educational Philosophies
- Mentoring New Teachers
- Technology Integration: 1-1 iPads
Professional Resources

- http://tc.readingandwritingproject.com
- http://www.stephanieharvey.com
- http://www.literaturecircles.com
- http://www.stanford.edu/dept/psychology/cdweck
- http://www.readinglady.com
- http://www.bayareawritingproject.org
- http://www.batdc.org
- http://www.sandomenico.org/literacyresources