

December News



Curriculum Corner with Kelly Luneborg

What is Guided Reading in Grades K-3?

Guided Reading is basically teaching reading in small groups. At the beginning of the year, students are assessed in word knowledge, phonics, fluency and comprehension. Students are placed in groups with similar reading behaviors and levels. The small group allows students to apply reading strategies using a variety of texts. The ultimate goal is for each child to read independently with ease and understanding.

With the third grade reading guarantee grant and other instructional supply funds, Garaway was able to purchase leveled readers to use with the small groups. The readers include 595 titles of fiction, nonfiction and content stories. Each reader has 6 copies and range from levels A (kindergarten) to Q (beginning 4th grade). We will be expanding this soon to level V. The collection is located at Miller Avenue.

From our initial assessment, we found that differentiating is a priority. We have students in our classroom at all levels. Teaching to the average child is not meeting the needs in our students.

Current Span as of September

- 1st grade level span from A to S (Kindergarten-beginning 5th)
- 2nd grade level span from G to P (1st grade-3rd grade)
- 3rd grade level span from G to V (1st grade to end of 5th grade)

Professional Development has been a big part of this initiative. Shay Young, former teacher who used guided reading and now curriculum specialist at ESC, has spent five days with our staff.

She started off with the philosophy of guided reading and how it fits into the state movements with OTES and Common Core. The following days were spent on assessments, running a small group and how to manage the rest of the classroom. We hope to after Christmas to bring Shay back to observe teachers working with the small groups and then provide feedback to the teachers.

Guided reading has been met with excitement but apprehension by the staff. The apprehension comes from learning a new instructional method.. The excitement comes from the teachers knowing this is what we need to differentiate to meet all the students needs and we finally have material to do it with.

As we implement Guided Reading this year, each classroom will progress through it at their own speed and comfort level. Next school year, the program will be implemented at the beginning of the year and will be a major part of our reading instruction in grades kindergarten through three.

