Meaningful Literacy Experiences in School and at Home

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Thoughts and Reflections

• What kind of reading do you do with your child?
  o Do you read to your child?
  o Does your child read to you?
  o Do you read together?
  o What kind of books do you read together?

• What kind of writing do you and your child engage in at home?
  o Do you write to your child?
  o Does your child write to you?
  o Do you write together?
  o What kinds of writing do you and your child enjoy?
Reading and Writing are Meaning Making Processes ...

Instruction Needs to Support Meaning Work at ALL Grade Levels
Overview of Literacy Experiences in School
Philosophy of Reading and Writing Workshop

• Independence

• Choice

• Volume and Stamina

• Opportunities to practice and receive feedback

• Process and Habits: Teach the reader and the writer not the book or the piece of writing

• Authentic Purpose and Instruction: Teach something you would actually DO as a writer or reader and authentic purposes
What We Value

• A Balanced Approach to Literacy

• Lessons to Support Skill Development

• Units of Study

• Time for Independent Reading and Writing
A Balanced Approach to Literacy

- Read Aloud
- Shared Reading
- Reading Workshop
- Word Study
- Shared or Interactive Writing
- Writing Workshop
Lessons to Support Skill Development

• **Reading**
  Meaning – Comprehension
  Fluency
  Accuracy/Word Solving (print strategies)

• **Writing**
  Meaning
  Organization and Structure
  Elaboration and Development
  Spelling
  Conventions (punctuation, capitalization, grammar)
K-5 Units of Study

• Common Goals

• Different Genres and Different Purposes

• Responsive and Differentiated Teaching
Writing
Writing Workshop

Purpose:
• Teach students strategies they can use when writing independently
• Support all aspects of writing

Daily Structure:
• Mini Lesson
• Independent Writing Time
• Partner Writing Time
• Share
Types of Writing

• Narrative

• Informational

• Opinion

or play music she feel happy
this is giving the idea
music is different than words One
thing is my sister is sort of
sensitive or heart easily so when
never feels hurt she never
feels down if she has town
it turn itself around and she
never get hurt with music
she always feel good
This makes me realize that
music is important even if you
may not like it My hole life
is music You may have no
fun without music your life
may be boring Without music
it’s like life without action
Valuing Independence and Process

[Images of various drawings and writings related to the theme of independence and process.]
Encouraging Writing at Home

• Make it part of your day

• Find reasons to write and encourage different kinds of writing

• Support purpose: Say things like “Wow that seems important ... What can we say about it? Why don’t you write about it?”

• Make a place for writing and keep materials organized – writing center

• Tell them about yourself as a writer – what do you write about, who do you write to?

• Utilize technology

• Talk – A LOT!
Reading
A Balanced Approach to Literacy

• Read Aloud
• Shared Reading
• Reading Workshop
• Word Study
• Shared or Interactive Writing
• Writing Workshop
Variety of Texts

• **Variety of genres**
  o Fiction
  o Nonfiction
  o Poetry

• **Variety of forms**
  o Picture books
  o Chapter books
  o Articles
Read Aloud

• Purpose: Develop comprehension and conversation skills

• What: Teacher thinks aloud while reading and prompts readers to think and talk about the book before, during, and after the reading
Why read aloud in school and at home?

• Enjoyable experience

• Opportunity to “share and nurture a love of reading, to help our three-, four-, and five-year-olds to love reading, and to encourage our nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-olds to continue to love reading” – Lucy Calkins

• Conversation and comprehension skills developed

• Higher-level thinking supported because children do not have to focus on the cognitive demands of decoding the text and can devote their energy to deep thinking

• Provides readers with experiences with texts above their independent reading level
Reading Workshop

Purpose:
• Teach students strategies they can use when reading independently
• Support all aspects of reading

Daily Structure:
• Mini Lesson
• Independent Reading Time
• Partner/Club Time
• Share
Word Study

• Purpose: Teach students how words work so they can problem-solve words when reading and writing
  o Explicit instruction
  o Practice activities (making words, sorting, editing)
Tips for Engaging and Motivating Readers

• Read aloud – Take time to think and talk!

• Have family read aloud times at night

• Read when your child can see you!

• Indulge your child’s passions

• Take trips to the library and bookstore and make "no pressure" choices
Tips for Engaging and Motivating Readers

• Create reading and writing spots at home

• Take books on long and short trips

• Make storytelling part of your day

• Leave “literary gifts” in your child’s reading and writing spot

• Start a parent/child book club
Questions and Discussion

Thank You!