Best Practices in Language Literacy

Establish consistent use of best practice standards-based instruction throughout District #11

Best Practices in Reading and Writing
Explicit, Systematic Instruction ● Clearly model literacy skills and strategies using think-alouds and guided practice. ● Provide direct instruction in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. ● Use gradual release of responsibility ("I do, We do, You do").
Knowledge-Building Through Content-Rich Texts ● Use complex, grade-level texts to build background knowledge and vocabulary. ● Integrate literacy instruction with science, social studies, and other content areas. ● Provide opportunities for students to read and discuss a variety of genres and perspectives.
Structured Literacy Practices ● Arrange flexible grouping by interest level, skill level and text selections. ● Assist students in choosing quality reading materials and setting goals for improvement. ● Teach students to evaluate their progress through application and self-reflection.
Vocabulary and Language Development ● Intentionally teach academic vocabulary and language structures. ● Engage students in rich discussions, collaborative conversations, and oral language activities. ● Provide repeated exposure to new words in meaningful contexts.
Reading Comprehension and Critical Thinking ● Teach students to monitor understanding, ask questions, infer, summarize, and analyze text. ● Encourage evidence-based responses and critical thinking about texts. ● Use discussion and writing to deepen comprehension.

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Writing Across the Curriculum

- Provide daily opportunities for authentic writing.
- Teach the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
- Incorporate narrative, informational, and opinion/argument writing across subjects.

Differentiation and Intervention

- Use assessment data to guide instruction and provide targeted support.
- Implement tiered interventions within an MTSS framework.
- Provide scaffolded instruction while maintaining high expectations for all learners.

Student Engagement and Choice

- Foster a love of reading through access to diverse, high-interest texts.
- Provide opportunities for student voice, choice, and independent reading.
- Create literacy-rich environments that promote curiosity and collaboration.

Assessment and Responsive Instruction

- Use formative and summative assessments to monitor progress and inform instruction.
- Analyze student work and assessment data collaboratively.
- Adjust instruction based on student strengths and needs.

Family and Community Partnerships

- Encourage literacy experiences at home and within the community.
- Communicate with families about student progress and strategies to support literacy growth.
- Promote lifelong literacy habits beyond the classroom.

Share the Love of Literacy