

Reading

We have a new reading curriculum this year. I think the children will like this new curriculum and I can't wait to use it this year. There are many aspects to our reading curriculum that I would like to tell you about.

There are many books and workbooks to go along with this reading series. Students will have a textbook, workbook, and a skills book. Workbook pages focus on reading skills, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. In addition to these workbook pages, each child will also have a skills book to keep at school. It is with this skills book that we will practice and work on the concepts presented in the workbook. Classwork and practice will come from the skills book while homework will come from the workbook pages.

There is also an oral reading fluency book. This is a book I have put together to help your child develop fluent reading skills. Students will find tips for fluent reading and passages to read aloud onto their audiocassette tape. Students will be recording onto their tapes throughout the year. If you would like to listen to your child's tape during the year, just ask them to bring it home. Having students record themselves reading aloud is a great way for them to evaluate their oral reading and to listen to their progress.

My overall goal in teaching reading is to help your child learn to read at grade level and to instill a real desire to read - both in and out of school. I want him or her to see that reading is a pleasurable activity that is worth pursuing outside of school for fun as well as to acquire knowledge.

To accomplish my goal, I will group students in many different ways rather than placing them in one reading group for most of the year. This is often called flexible grouping. For example, sometimes I will teach the entire class. Other times I will group children who need to learn specific skills. Still other times I will have the students read together in teams. There are also times when I will ask children to choose their own books and groups, as these choices will help them feel more involved in their learning. Rest assured, however, that all of these grouping arrangements are done under my guidance, and all are designed to help me teach your child specific objectives of the reading program.

BOOK CLUBS

Throughout the year, the students will be participating in book clubs. These “book clubs” are designed for children to read a book they are interested in, and be able to talk about the same book with other children. This is a fun way for students to learn to read for pleasure as well as to evaluate and discuss books they have read. Book clubs are formed through student choice (and teacher supervision). Students in each book club set their own reading goals and are responsible to read their “assigned reading”. At the end of each book, students are expected to complete a written book report (individually) and a group project (together).