

Hillcrest School

2017-2018 Building Goal

Implementing New ELA Units of Study

Focus:

During the 2017-2018 academic year, ongoing guidance, support, and training will be provided to grade level teachers as they implement the newly designed Morris School District K-5 English/Language Arts Curriculum (ELA). In addition, the home/school partnership will continue to be strengthened through regular communication letters and exemplars designed to help families understand the learning objective and how they can support their child's academic progress.

Rationale:

As part of the Curriculum update and revision process, the Morris School District evaluated the Reading and Writing curriculum and its alignment with the NJ Student Learning Standards. After obtaining parent and teacher input, the K-5 ELA curriculum committee revised the 2017-2018 ELA curriculum to reflect an alignment with the NJ Student Learning Standards, as well as incorporating the framework of the Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Workshop model.

<http://readingandwritingproject.org/>

SMART Goal:

By June 2018:

- The Action Steps listed below to support the proper implementation of the newly designed ELA curriculum will be completed.
- Parent and teacher year-end surveys will reflect satisfaction as it relates to the newly designed ELA curriculum and its components.

Action Steps:

- Monitor and support the ongoing Home/School Communication letters and bulletins (Unit of Study family letters and exemplars, as well as teacher created monthly newsletters) to strengthen the home/school partnership.
- Provide guidance to staff in the development of Reading and Writing lesson plans.
- Provide training to grade level teachers throughout the year based upon dialogue with staff, survey results, and classroom observations.
- Provide time for grade level teachers to meet, discuss, and plan upcoming Units of Study in Reading and Writing, using district-provided and teacher-developed resources. This includes release time to visit colleagues' classrooms during Reading/Writing Workshop to view varying instructional strategies.
- Provide guidance and support during monthly district grade level meetings that address specific questions and concerns of staff as they work to implement the Units of Study consistently across the district.
- Review lesson plans, Guided Reading notes, student/teacher conferring notes, and other sources of student data regularly.
- Review parent survey to determine effectiveness of the parent communication letters in strengthening the home/school partnership.
- Review feedback from teachers' survey, in the Spring 2018, and plan action steps and trainings for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year.