

Special Darien Board of Education

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Darien Public Schools' Administrative Offices

35 Leroy Avenue

Board of Education Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. K-2 Literacy
2. Music Curriculum Update
3. Public Comment*
4. Adjournment

AA:nv

*** * The Board of Education meeting will be available to the public in person and via Zoom. In-Person attendance at the Board meeting is limited by room capacity and social distancing requirements. All members of the community must wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Only 14 seats are available for the public which will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Doors open at 8:15 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. meeting. If you are present and wish to give public comment but are unable to get a seat, you will be required to wait outside and you will be invited into the room when it is your turn to speak.**

Those members of the community wishing to participate in public comment may join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://darienps.zoom.us/j/93072282365>

Those members of the community wishing to view only, should do so through the Darien Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnvyKBfFrTWQRuoB6OZA>

In order to reduce audio interference, members of the community are requested not to simultaneously view by Youtube while participating on Zoom.

K - 2 LITERACY SCIENCE OF READING SHIFTS

2022 - 2023 CURRICULUM PRIORITY

BOE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - JANUARY 27, 2022



DARIEN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Why the Change?

Reading research...

- continues to expand our understanding of the cognitive processes that are essential for reading proficiency.
- prompted further study about how students learn to read.
- led to revisions in curriculum and pedagogy.

CT's Right to Read Legislation – Goals:

- Improve reading outcomes for all students in the state, regardless of district
- Impacts curricula and materials

Overview of ‘Right to Read’ Legislation

The CT Department of Education established a Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success (July 2021)

The Center will support district, teachers, and students in the following ways:

- implement a coordinated statewide reading plan for K-3.
- research and develop a birth-to-12 reading success strategy, with the Office of Early Childhood.
- require districts to implement evidence-based early literacy reading curricula approved by The Center. (July 2023)
- Require specific reading assessments to identify K-3 students who are below proficiency in reading.
- provide independent random reviews of how districts are implementing the approved reading curricula and assessments.
- publicly report the reading curricula used by each district.
- provide professional development, leadership training, parent engagement, and technical assistance.
- collaborate with higher education institutions to ensure aligned teacher preparation.
- publicly report progress made by teacher preparation programs.

What is the “Science of Reading?”

- Research from cognitive psychology and neuroscience shows that good readers attend to the letters in the words to identify what words say.
- Word recognition is the foundation of reading.
- Phonemic proficiency, rather than “awareness” is critical.
- Students need systematic, explicit instruction in phonics to learn to read words.
- Reading comprehension occurs when both decoding and language (listening) comprehension are strong.

Science of Reading: Current Practices

- Explicit Systematic Phonics Instruction K-3 (Foundations: 2015-2018)
- Assessment of Phonics Skills
- Early Intervention
- Beginning 2021-2022
 - Strengthened Phonemic Awareness instruction and assessment in Kindergarten (SRBI and special education) with new resource (Heggerty)
 - Introduced decodables
 - K-2 professional learning focused on science of reading shifts

Science of Reading: Current Practices

3rd Grade Phonics Lesson Foundations



Ms. Lauren Niessing,
Hindley School

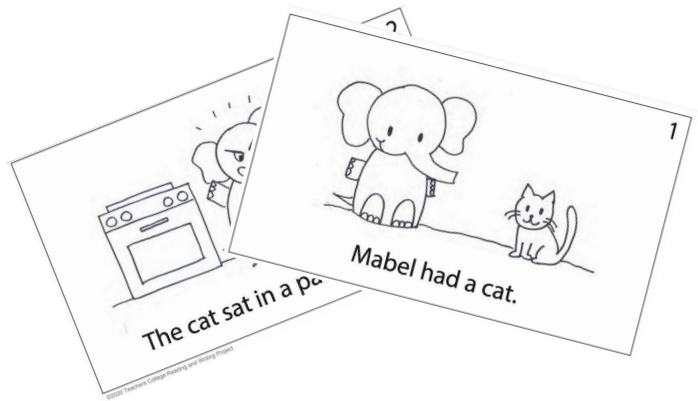
Kindergarten Phonemic Awareness Lesson Heggerty



Mrs. Mary Beth Gianatassio,
Ox Ridge School

K – 2 Literacy: Science of Reading Shifts

- Phonemic awareness instruction
- Instructional routines for language development to build strong reading comprehension
- High frequency word instruction
- Prioritization of print strategies to figure out unknown words
- Decodable texts to generalize phonics



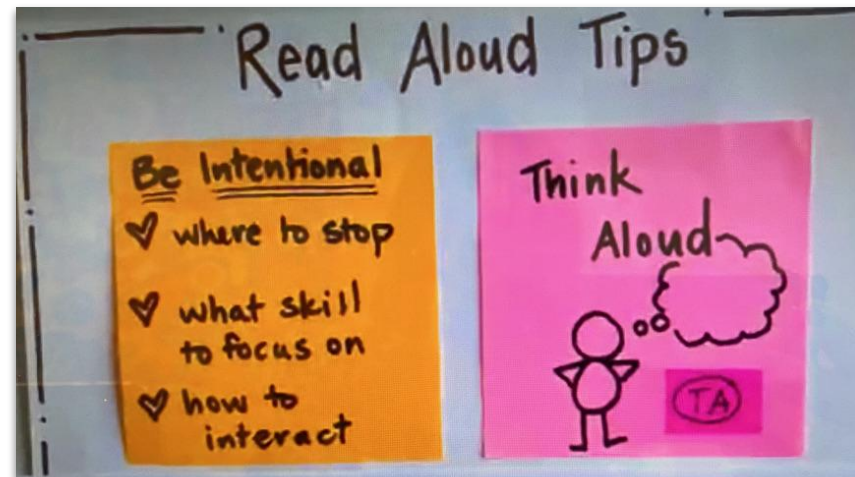
Shift #1: Strengthen Phonemic Awareness Instruction

- Continue strengthening phonemic awareness instruction in K
- Expand Heggerty to 1st Grade
- Administer universal PA assessments (3x/year?)
- Implement formative assessment measures to ensure phonemic proficiency



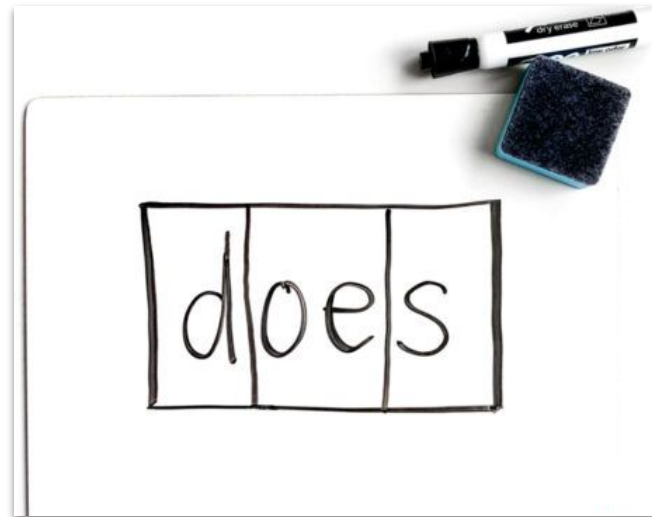
Shift #2: Some New Thinking About Comprehension

- Strengthen comprehension instruction in kindergarten
- Instructional routines for oral language development
- Strategies for young children who struggle with comprehension



Shift #3: Revising High Frequency Word Instruction

- Comparing a word's sound structure to its spelling (orthographic mapping) is essential
- Orthographic mapping vs. chanting the letters
- High Frequency words versus sight words
- Needs to be differentiated



Shift #4: Prioritization of Print Strategies

- Revise prompting for unfamiliar words.
- Prioritize print as a strategy of first resort for word solving.
- Teach meaning and structure to cross-check.
- More differentiation to ensure mastery versus exposure
- Ensure meaningful interactions with texts along with systematic phonics

Shift #5: Decodable Texts to Practice Phonics

- More decodable texts in kindergarten
- Decodable texts matched to phonics instruction
- Provide engaging, high-quality texts
- Students won't be self-selecting books; teachers will be curating book selection for purposeful practice



New K-2 TC Units of Study in Reading

- Revised prompts for unfamiliar words
- Phonemic awareness and phonics – instruction, practice and formative assessment
- Revised high frequency word instruction
- Revised read-aloud prompts to foster oral language and comprehension
- Includes high volumes of independent reading in leveled and decodable texts

Sample New Kindergarten Minilesson

- Curriculum influenced by Science of reading research
- Importance of Slider Power
- Showcases the integration of phonic decoding and reading



Questions?





Music Curriculum Update

Presented January 27, 2022



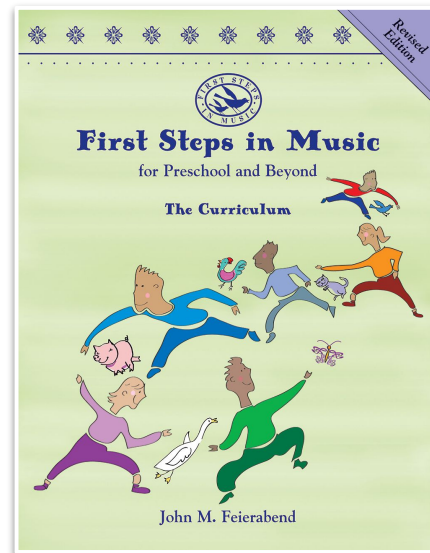
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



K-1 General Music: First Steps in Music



- Implementing First Steps in Music Curriculum for K-1 General Music
- Early Childhood music curriculum focusing on child-centered music activities teaching students to become “tuneful, beat-ful, and artful” musicians
- Darien teachers trained by John Feierabend who wrote the curriculum





First Steps in Music



An 8-part music readiness curriculum for 3 - 8 year old children

Singing / Tonal Activity Categories

1. Pitch Exploration/Vocal Warm-up
(Discovering the sensation of the singing voice)
 - Vocal glissandos
2. Fragment Singing
(Developing independent singing)
 - Echo Songs
 - Call and Response Songs
3. Simple Songs
(Developing independent singing and musical syntax)
 - 3-4 Notes Songs
 - Expanded Range
4. Arioso
(Developing original musical thinking)
 - Spontaneous created songs by the child
5. SongTales
(Developing expressive sensitivity through listening)
 - Ballads for children

Movement Activities Categories

6. Movement Exploration/Warm-up
(Developing expressive sensitivity through movement)
 - Movement with and without classical music accompaniment
7. Movement for Form and Expression
(Singing/speaking and moving with formal structure and expression)
 - Non-locomotor (finger plays, action songs, circle games, with recorded music)
 - Locomotor (circle games, with recorded music)
8. Beat Motion Activities
(Developing competencies in maintaining the beat in groups of 2 and 3)
 - Child-Initiated Beat Motions
 - Non-Locomotor
 - Locomotor
 - Teacher-initiated Beat Motions
 - Non-Locomotor
 - Locomotor



MMS Music Explorations



Old Sequence

6th Grade - Piano

7th Grade - Guitar

8th Grade - Music Technology

New Sequence

Developed by ME teacher Joel Knecht

Units in all 3 grade levels:

- Music Composition (Noteflight)
- Music Production (Soundtrap)
- Piano
- Guitar
- Music Listening Journals
- Music History



Music Composition



Theme and Variations

- Use the online program Noteflight to create and share music
- Learn various ways to change a melody to sound different
- Students create their own variations on a familiar theme



My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean

Melody

$\text{♩} = 140$

8

16

Variation

23

28

31



Music Production



Remix Project



- Create Alternate productions to existing songs so they sound new and unique

Audio Drama



- Find background music to create a sense of atmosphere to a story and add sound effects to highlight moments in the story

