

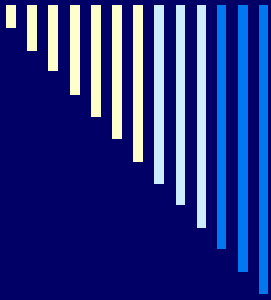
Rutgers Center for Literacy

Middle States



Rutgers Literacy Collaborative

- Began in 2007 to advance student learning
 - Consists of professional development meetings at the center, on-site coaching and workshops and an on-line discussion board
 - Presently 135 members across the state
 - We are the only Catholic school member
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Students must be proficient as readers, writers, listeners, and speakers to be successful contributing adults and lifelong learners.



What we have done to date

- ❑ Participated in workshops that began with struggling reader concepts
 - ❑ We worked on comprehension using informational texts
 - ❑ On-site workshops for teachers and children on Writer's Workshop, Early Childhood Literacy and Literature Circles
 - ❑ Worked on Balancing the Block, a comprehensive approach to language arts instruction
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Fountas, Pinnell, Caulkins

Living a Literate Life

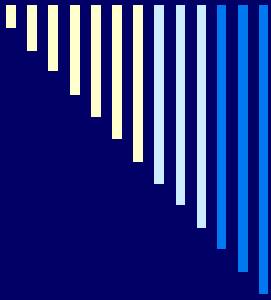
Our ultimate goal is to help each student become a reader who loves books and all they have to offer. A child who lives a literate life in school and has pleasurable experiences with written language will make a place for reading and writing throughout life.



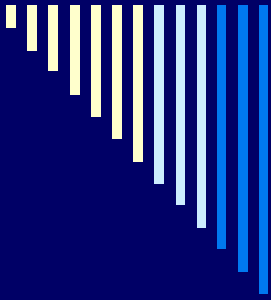
Early Childhood

A Balanced Early Literacy Program

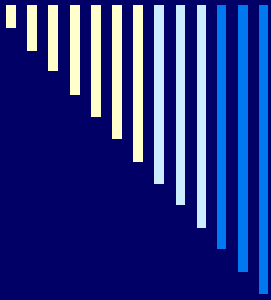
1. Reading to children develops background knowledge of genre, rich literary language, world knowledge, and so on. When teachers verbalize their own reading strategies through a think-aloud process, they give children the language to analyze their own reading.
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2. Reading with children (shared reading) gives children the opportunity to participate in a group situation, reading text that may be more difficult than that which they can read on their own. Guided reading gives children the opportunity to read text that they can read on their own with some help from the teacher.



3. Reading by children (independent reading) gives children the opportunity to choose texts they can read successfully.
4. Demonstrating Writing to/for children provides models of actual writing in contexts that have authentic purposes and processes.

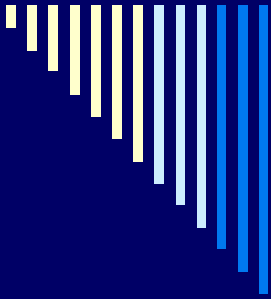


5. Writing with children is a teachers help children sound out words and understand the process of writing and move toward independence.
6. Writing by children gives children an opportunity to write for a variety of purposes and gives teachers insight into areas in which students need assistance.

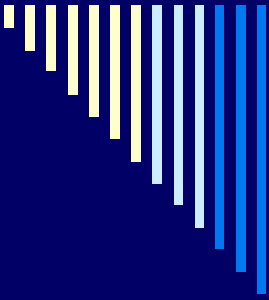


Writer's Workshop and Literature Circles

Writer's Workshop is a teaching technique that invites students to write by making the process a meaningful part of the classroom curriculum. Students are exposed to the organization and though required to create a story or write about a favorite topic.



A Literature Circle is a student centered reading activity for a group of 4-6 students at any grade level. Each member of a circle is assigned a role which helps guide the group in a discussion of the title they are all reading. Literature Circles provide an opportunity for students to control their own learning; to share thoughts, concerns and their understanding of the events of the novel.



Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to the book. Through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response, this strategy guides the students to a deeper understanding of what they read.



Middle States

- Accreditation protocol-Designing Our Future
 - Self-study evaluation/assessment and development of a strategic plan
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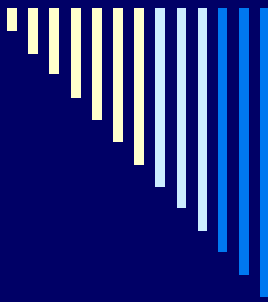
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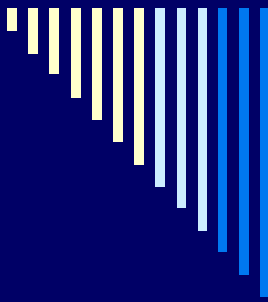
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is an accrediting institution
 - Most secondary schools but very few elementary schools undergo accreditation
 - Voluntary and peer driven
 - Rigorous process
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Twelve Standards

- Philosophy and Mission
 - Governance and Leadership
 - School Improvement Planning
 - Finances
 - School Climate and Organization
 - Health and Safety
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- Educational Program
 - Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
 - Student Services
 - Student Life and Student Activities
 - Information Resources and Technology
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- Developed our vision, mission, philosophy and goals
 - Two major goals for three year growth

Four team members

March 10-13



Goals

- By June 2011, all students in grades 1-6 will show increased performance in mathematics on the Terra Nova: Benchmark 20%.
 - In conjunction with the Rutgers Literacy Collaborative, we will develop and implement a Balanced Literacy program to increase proficiency in language arts, reading and writing and increase scores by 20% by the year 2011.
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