

Dauerty, Lee-Ann

From: Wilson, Michael
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 1:33 PM
To: Dauerty, Lee-Ann
Subject: RE: More you know Monday rw ww 10.22.18

Yes please

From: Dauerty, Lee-Ann
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 1:31 PM
To: Wilson, Michael
Subject: More you know Monday rw ww 10.22.18

Ok to post on FB?

More you know Monday... Reading and Writing Workshop

October 22, 2018

Reading and Writing workshop are terms that have been around for many years and look differently in different school districts. In Seymour, the workshop model from Columbia University Teachers College is implemented. For the past few years, grades K-5, and now this year grade 6, have been utilizing writing workshop. New this year, grades K-5 are implementing reading workshop. During Professional Development time, teachers are working with a staff developer from Columbia to learn and refine their teaching to help all students achieve at high levels.

The workshop model is based on the artisan learning model, where the craftsman (the teacher) pulls the students together and demonstrates a skill, a tip, or a strategy. Students watch the craftsman and then are sent off to create, to read, to write... and to try the skills when and where they best fit. The teacher then meets with small groups and individual students to 'coach into' their work, helping them learn and apply at their individual level. The workshop model encourages children to take responsibility for their own learning, and they become engaged and invested in their work and understanding. While this does not occur all at once, this independence and engagement develops each year the child progresses through the workshop model.

Reading and writing workshop occur daily during a period of time in each classroom. Reading and writing workshop is part of our 'balanced literacy' approach, and includes a large portion of time where students read or write. They read or write in pairs, they read independently, or they read or write with the teacher. Workshop also includes a mini-lesson where the teacher shares a strategy or tip that students may use to help them read or write better. Students work hard in their independent time to apply the strategies and tips from the mini-lesson into their work. Workshop also includes shared reading or writing time, read-aloud time, and of course, lots of celebration!

How can parents help?

- Ask your child what they are reading or writing about in school. Talk to your child about what you are reading at home or in your job.
- Help build your child's reading and writing 'muscles' by reading with them and writing with them at home. Increase the time and amount of reading/writing as the year progresses.
- Model. Read independently near your child.
- Write with your child- write a thank you note and have your child add to it. Send a postcard and have your child help write it, or even better, have your child send one too!
- Talk to your child's teacher about your child's writing and reading goals. Ask to see the learning progression so you know where your child is performing and what their next step in learning should be.