

Literacy Framework in Grades 3-5: Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop and Word Study

A three-block literacy framework is used in the third through fifth grade classrooms. The structure of the framework helps teachers plan for students' learning, plan and organize instruction, and provides a high level of productivity and engagement. Common routines and language are used by students and staff in the third through fifth grade classrooms so that learning can build on previous learning. Students in third grade learn the expectations of the routine and responsibilities, and in fourth and fifth grade can continue to expand their skills with the same expectations.

Students participate in the language and word study block for twenty to thirty minutes each day. This may include a variety of activities, some of which are: Word Study, vocabulary work, grammar study and read aloud. All of the activities work on developing students' language and word skills.

The reading workshop occurs every day for approximately an hour in each classroom. The teacher shares a mini lesson with the students, students read individually, then the whole class comes together again after the sustained period of reading. While students are reading individually, the teacher is working with small guided reading groups or individual students. Students are also working on writing a weekly letter to their teacher in their Reader's Notebook.

The third block of the literacy framework is writing workshop. Writing workshop occurs in the classroom everyday. In writing workshop students learn what it means to write and be a writer. Students write in their writer's notebook and use many ideas generated in this notebook to compose longer pieces of writing. They think, plan, compose, revise, edit, and share their work with their peers. Students at each grade level have specific writing projects and genre they write.