

May 22, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your student, _____, has been enrolled in English I Block. We will be using READ 180 Next Generation, an intensive reading program. READ 180 Next Generation will help him or her recognize and spell words correctly, read with fluency, comprehend the text, and writing skills improvement. The goal of this program is for him or her to read grade-level material independently, with confidence and fluency in all subjects.

You will be receiving reports about how your student is doing throughout the year.

Here are some things you could do at home to help your student become a lifelong reader and to prepare for English I Block:


- The Daily Read: Make reading a daily activity by reading to, or with, your child for 20 minutes every day.
- Fast and Fun Reads: Use magazines, newspapers, comic books, recipes, TV schedules, travel guides, and road signs as reading opportunities, wherever you are and whatever you and your child are doing.
- The Movie or the Book: Rent videos or DVDs on a topic that your child is interested in. Find books on a similar topic.
- Read and Ride: Listen to books on tape or CD while traveling by car. Or bring a personal player with earphones for your child to listen to books while on a train or plane.
- Read and Chat: Talk about what your child is reading. Ask questions about the characters or what happens in the story.

Here are some things you could do at home to help your student become a stronger writer and to prepare for English I Block:

- Thank You Notes: Write thank you notes for any gifts received or parties attended.
- Letters: Write formal letters to family and friends.
- Jeers and Cheers: Write to companies and businesses by paper or online praising or complaining about services received. *This often results in coupons or free samples in the mail.
- Blogs & Forums: With parent approval write a summer blog or join a forum on a subject of interest. Strive to make each posting as correct as possible.

Thank you for your support in making reading and the goals of READ 180 Next Generation important at home as well as in the classroom.

Sincerely,


Laurie Stansbury
English I Block Teacher
Northwest High School


Bryan Johnson
Principal
Northwest High School

What *READ 180* is.....

A researched-based program improving and assessing secondary reading skills to meet NCLB requirements

Ensures that students are placed with peers in accordance to their proximal zone of learning

A block class that earns a credit for English and reading

Embeds the TDP standards and CCSS into every lesson every day

How is it different than other ELA classes?

It is a daily literacy block that includes teacher-led scaffold instruction in text comprehension*, academic vocabulary*, writing*, college and career readiness skills*

Meets students where they currently are academically and accelerates the acquisition of literacy skills so that students can access grade-level standards/skills

Exposes students to a wide range of quality, increasingly complex text based on their personal interests

Allows a student to learn at his or her own pace

Daily uses technology to assist in student learning and practice

Prepares students with the use of technology for the upcoming PARCC assessments

***Text Comprehension:** Students read text in their proximal zone of development using the Lexile Framework for Reading®. Texts are carefully measured for text qualities such as levels of meaning, structure, knowledge demands, and language clarity.

***Technology:** Students practice improving literacy skills daily using software with adaptive algorithm that matches students with reading passages with comprehension levels that are within their zone of proximal development, and progresses them to slightly more difficult passages as their comprehension skills improve.

***Writing:** Students are exposed daily to carefully scaffold instruction on the key types of writing: Argument Essay, Informational/Explanatory, and Narrative. Whole- and Small-Group differentiated writing instruction moves students from teacher-led paragraph and multi-paragraph writing to independent practice in the Writing Zone within the Instructional Software

***College and Career Readiness Skills:** Each unit focuses on Higher Order Thinking skills that help them analyze, synthesize, and evaluate. Students are guided through an “internship on a page” as they discuss and apply college and career strategies and competencies

What *READ180* is not....

A special education program/class for students with learning disabilities

Available to all students to access due to program cost and budgetary restrictions

How my student is selected for English I Block...

One of the major factors that help us determine if a student would benefit from this block of literacy instruction is test scores. State assessment scores are used to suggest a need for this program along with the *A+ Learning Link Assessment* test to determine their reading level. According to State assessment scores and the *A+Learning Link Assessment*, your student is currently reading 1-2 years below grade level. For this reason, we feel your student would greatly benefit from this block of literacy instruction.