
Literacy Newsletter



Oakland & Owens

December 16th, 2016

Get in Touch!

Please feel free to contact us throughout the year with any questions, concerns, or celebrations you have regarding your child's literacy experience.

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You can also find us on Facebook! Join the group "Oakland & Owens Literacy" for regular classroom updates, literacy newsletters, and more! This is a private group designed as another method to keep families connected to our classroom.

Task Completion Reports

Task completion reports will continue to be sent out on Wednesdays. That way, students have the opportunity to use class time, FLEX, and Connect to meet with us for any direction or clarification on incomplete or missing assignments prior to the weekend. If questions pop up over the weekend, please contact us. Our goal is to work as a team and use this tool to support your child!

As we start each new unit, we typically start fresh with our Task Completion Reports. This week's report focused on the completion of our Summative Argument Essay and Informational Reading Pre-Assessment. These are assessments that were meant to be completed in class with independence from peer or adult support.

Continuum Updates

As we transition out of our second unit of study, we will be assessing a summative writing piece and updating the continuum. Look for these updates shortly after Winter Break. Our third unit of study focuses heavily on informational reading strategies, and we will be adding updates to our reading continuum toward the end of our new unit.

What are we learning?

Reading

This week, we kicked off our new unit - Informational Reading! In this unit, we will “major” in reading, and our focus will center around the development of comprehension strategies within informational texts (non-fiction).

Students have been delving into books of interest, and will be working toward developing a more narrowed topic after Winter Break. We have been working in our Thoughtful Blogs, and will continue to work in them throughout the rest of the year.

Writing

In our new unit, students will be “minoring” in writing. We’ll continue to write regularly, but our focus will shift to writing about our reading within Thoughtful Blogs. Every student recently created a Thoughtful Blog, which is a Google site similar to their science notebook. This site will be used throughout the year to collect and apply strategies that support our work as readers. Much of this will be through written reflection and analysis.

Speaking & Listening

Speaking and listening skills are woven into our daily routine through activities like turning and talking during mini lessons, interacting with our literacy cohorts, sharing with reading partnerships, and speaking within community circle. We will regularly engage in informal speaking opportunities during this unit; however, we plan to bring this unit to culmination through an “unconference” style presentation.

Conventions

Each week, students build their understanding of grammar skills within No Red Ink. Typically, we assign a new topic on Monday and set the due date for Friday. This allows students to utilize FLEX, Connect, and application time in class to minimize the



amount of work that needs to be done at home. Most assignments take about 20-30 minutes to complete and involve a specific overarching focus with related skills. Like the math program ALEKS, No Red Ink adapts the amount of practice a student receives based on how they respond to each question. Students also have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of a topic in order to “place out” of an assignment. As writers, we also discuss and assess the application of these skills within our formative and summative writing pieces.