



West Orange Public Schools

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Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Eveny de Mendez

ELA Committee Recommendation 2023-2024

March 13, 2024

Dear West Orange School Families,

The week of February 13th, updates were provided to our Board, PTA Executive Council and School Families regarding the district English Language Arts (ELA) Committee's progress toward evaluating the current K-5 ELA program, its curriculum, and instructional resources. Please find these on our district website. The aim of the committee was to select a comprehensive, evidence-based ELA program rooted in scientific research literature and effective instructional strategies for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. The selection process focused on ensuring alignment with the newly adopted New Jersey Student Learning Standards in ELA, while also incorporating the latest research on reading and addressing all aspects of literacy instruction.

Over the past several months, teachers across the district reviewed and piloted two K-5 Comprehensive Core Programs for the elementary grade span. After a thorough review and thoughtful consideration, the ELA recommends that the Board adopt: [INTO READING](#) by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as its new K-5 ELA Core Comprehensive Program for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year.

A formal presentation and recommendation will be made to the Board at the March 18th Board meeting.

Additionally, a series of parent meetings began this week, in order to provide ELA Updates to our school families. These are being held at varying elementary schools throughout the district and are designed to offer detailed information about the ELA program selection, provide an opportunity to preview instructional materials, address any questions parents may have, and solicit feedback on how the district can best support families during this transition. School families are encouraged to attend any of the sessions listed below.

- Wednesday, March 13, 2024 6pm **@Kelly** / Redwood 7:30pm [Virtual](#)
- Thursday, March 14, 2024 6pm **@Hazel** / Gregory 7:30pm Washington
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6pm Mt. Pleasant / **@St. Cloud** 7:30pm **@Central Office**

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support as we endeavor to enhance the literacy education of our students.

Warm Regards,

Eveny de Mendez

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Beatrice Hanratty

English Language Arts Supervisor, K-5