

# BIDDEFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM FOR ELA

## HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS (K & 1 staff & support staff have been trained)

MAY 18, 2012 HWT WORKSHOP was held at BPS for all of K & 1 teachers, all SPED staff, all Title 1 staff, all speech & language staff, literacy specialists, and both occupational therapists.

Terri Foster from HWT presented - outstanding presenter and excellent reviews from staff - would like to have Terri present again for other grades.

Plan: Train grade 2 in 2012-2013 and grade 3 in 2013-2014, pending funds.

Important Note: Discuss district cursive expectations and look at alignment with HWT. What cursive expectations are in place for grades 2 & 3, 4 & 5, and middle school? HWT does not teach cursive until grade three.

## PHONICS LESSONS: LETTERS, WORDS, AND HOW THEY WORK, GRADE K by Fountas & Pinnell

**PHONICS LESSONS** provides scientific information about the complex, intricate relationships between letters and sounds and the ways in which they work to support developing readers.

Kindergartners are learning about written language in a broad, exploratory way. In *Phonics Lessons, Kindergarten*, students explore four main types of information, each of which is essential for developing an efficient early reading process: phonemic awareness, letters and sounds, reading words, and early reading concepts.

The 100 brief minilessons included in this program enable you to help children attend to, learn about, and efficiently use information about letters, sounds, and words. Each lesson is organized around a single language principle. These minilessons empower you to plan and teach effectively and systematically. The lessons are thorough and organized and include a range of instructional approaches, from demonstration and explicit teaching to support for children's independent work.

**REBECCA SITTON SPELLING PROGRAM** (Grades 1, 2 & 3 use Rebecca Sitton Spelling - grade 4 was to purchase Rebecca Sitton Spelling program for 2012-2013 school year - now pending final approval of school budget...TBD Nov. 6, 2012) An overview video and grade-specific videos were purchased last spring for grades 1, 2 & 3.

Visit [eps.schoolspecialty.com/Sitton](http://eps.schoolspecialty.com/Sitton) to find:

*Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®* is a multifaceted program that stands apart from others because of its unique elements that work together to provide students with the spelling, language, and word skills that help them become better writers by applying these skills to their everyday writing. ***Sitton Spelling and Word Skills*** provides:

- A focus on **skills and concepts** - Active learning and analyses of words enables students to discover spelling skills and concepts that extend their knowledge far beyond a memorized list of words.
- **Formative assessment** of high-frequency writing words - Spelling words are the *result* of a formative, cloze story test that assesses which words students have not yet mastered. Students *then* study words they have missed and encounter those words in subsequent tests to work toward long-term mastery.

- Proofreading **accountability** - Students are held accountable for proofreading in their everyday writing. Using a reference, they proofread for assigned "Priority Words" and are expected to spell them correctly 100% of the time.
- A strong core curriculum with additional **teacher choice** - Teachers are able to choose which skills and concepts to focus on within a unit and are provided with a choice of multiple activities for each concept, as well as numerous optional extension activities.
- Opportunities for **differentiated instruction** - Teachers use the *Sourcebooks* to address the varying needs of students through flexible instructional formats, continuous recycling of skills and concepts, and suggestions for adapting instruction.

## LUCY CALKINS (K-5)

***Units of Study for Primary Writing:*** This K-2 series is comprised of nine small books and a CD. The first book, *The Nuts and Bolts of Teaching Writing* will equip you to teach a productive, well-managed writing workshop, introduce you to the methods which underlie all writing instruction, and help you plan a yearlong curriculum in the teaching of writing. Then, each of the seven unit books will support 4-6 weeks of that yearlong curriculum, helping you plan goals, minilessons, and shares for that unit. *The Conferring Handbook* offers you support in your conferring in each unit, and the CD offers resources and reproducibles to support you throughout the year's writing workshop. Each unit is divided into approximately fifteen sessions. In each session, we provide a detailed description of one day's teaching, and share ways in which that one day could be extended into several days. *In the Biddeford school district, most grades K-5 staff has been trained. BPS Literacy Specialist, Judy Huot, is conducting training at this time for new staff at BPS.*

***Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5*** offers crystal-clear advice on how to lead strong, efficient writing workshops in upper-elementary classrooms. Organized within a carefully crafted spiraling curriculum, these six sequential units of study help you teach narrative and expository writing with increasing power and intimacy. Like Units of Study for Primary Writing, this series provides minute-by-minute, live-from-the-classroom coaching as Lucy teaches students how to write with greater clarity and focus. By detailing the way Lucy teaches writing—the choices she makes (or could make), the theories and experience she draws on, and the resources she uses—each unit of study will enable you to extrapolate guidelines and methods so that you will feel ready to invent your own clear, sequenced, vibrant instruction in writing.

The books are intended to be read and used in sequence, each book standing on the shoulders of the books that go before it. (The order of *Fiction and Literary Essays* could conceivably be flipped; other than that, they must proceed in order.) A few homemade units can be inserted between the fifth and the sixth book. I suggest one of these be a unit of study on poetry, and I will later direct you to sources of support for that unit and others. Together, these units (including the ones you author yourself) will combine to provide the curricular support necessary to take a class of upper elementary students on a learning journey.

The series can also provide the backbone for a second or third year of study, as long as teachers in the succeeding years are increasingly willing to tailor their teaching to take into account what children already know and can do. That is, children profit from a spiral curriculum in writing: for example, in third grade they learn to write detailed, chronological personal narratives, but then in fourth grade, they have opportunities to deepen their knowledge of narrative writing. Because the teaching in these books is highly predictable, and because each bit of it draws on principles that are clearly articulated, you will find that these books will take not only your students but also you and your colleagues on a learning journey. *Our school libraries from K-5 have purchased multiple copies of most of the recommended mentor texts to support this writing program.*

### **WRITE SOURCE (Used in grades 6, 7 & 8.)**

Write Source is a group of teachers and writers who develop materials for students and instructors from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Write Source materials are published by Great Source, a division of the Houghton Mifflin company. *Need more information from BMS as to which WRITE SOURCE materials they are using.*

**CONTINUUM OF LITERACY LEARNING, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION, BY FOUNTAS & PINNELL** (Will be used by district to coordinate curriculum maps with Common Core State Standards – book is already aligned to the standards.) Mary Capobianco

**DIRECT LITERACY INTERVENTION** Full-time Literacy Specialists are available for grades K-8. Part-time Literacy Specialist is available for grades 9-12.

**GUIDED READING and READER'S WORKSHOP STUDY GROUPS - FOUNTAS & PINNELL** (Guided reading study groups using Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children, K-2, and Guiding Readers & Writers: Teaching Comprehension, Genre and Content Literacy, 3-6, and Teaching for Comprehending and Fluency: Thinking, Talking, and Writing about Reading, K-8, have been offered in the Biddeford district for staff from K-5 since spring, 2010. All books are by Fountas & Pinnell.)

A reader's workshop format with a guided reading component is an expectation in grades K-3 - many teachers are using Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children, K-2 and Guiding Readers & Writers: Teaching Comprehension, Genre and Content Literacy, 3-6 by Fountas & Pinnell or The Daily Five, K-5 and The CAFÉ Book, K-5 by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser as guidelines. The expectation is that grades 1, 2 & 3 teachers will use leveled texts and a guided reading component in their reader's workshop model in order to differentiate effectively for each of their students by January, 2013. Basals are to be removed from the BPS building at that time.

### **GLENCOE LITERATURE (Used in grades 6 & 8.)**

*Need more info from BMS as to which GLENCOE LITERATURE materials they are using.*

**LEVELED LITERACY INTERVENTION (LLI)** (Leveled Literacy Intervention is used by Title I, Literacy Specialist and SPED interventionists in grades K-3).

The *Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System* (LLI) is a small-group, supplementary intervention program designed to help teachers provide powerful, daily, small-group instruction for the lowest achieving children in the early grades. Lessons across the three systems progress from beginning reading in Kindergarten or Grade 1 (Level A) to beginning reading for Grade 3 (Level N).

- LLI is designed to be used with small groups of young children who need intensive support to achieve grade-level competency.
- Participants include low-achieving children who are not receiving another supplementary intervention.
- English language learners can also benefit from LLI. Each LLI lesson provides specific suggestions for supporting English language learners.

LLI's lessons include the following:

- A combination of reading, writing, phonics and word study
- Emphasis on comprehending strategies
- Attention to the features of nonfiction and fiction texts
- Specific work on sounds, letters, and words in activities designed to help children notice the details of written language and learn how words "work"
- Help for students in expanding their vocabularies
- Explicit teaching for fluent and phrased reading
- Opportunities to write about reading to learn a variety of writing strategies.

### **S.P.I.R.E. (Used as an intervention in grade 1 only.)**

S.P.I.R.E. is a comprehensive, multisensory, systematic reading and language arts program designed for struggling readers and for students with learning differences. It incorporates total language instruction including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, spelling, handwriting, and comprehension.

**READ 180 (READ 180 is used in grades 4 & 5 by Title I and SPED staff. BMS uses READ 180 in grades 6 & 7 - regular education and SPED. BHS uses READ 180 in grades 9 through 12 - regular education and SPED.)**

*READ 180* is a comprehensive system of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development proven to raise reading achievement for struggling readers in grades 4-12+. Designed for any student reading two or more years below grade-level, *READ 180* leverages adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers.

**SYSTEM 44 (SYSTEM 44 is used in grade 3 with SPED students. BIS uses SYSTEM 44 with SPED in grades 4 & 5. BMS uses it with mostly SPED or ESL, and BHS uses it from grades 9 through 12.)**

*System 44* is the breakthrough foundational reading and phonics intervention technology program for our most challenged readers in Grades 3-12+. *System 44's* state-of-the-art adaptive technology delivers direct, explicit foundational reading and phonics instruction as well as engaging, high-interest print materials for student practice in reading, writing, and spelling.

### **PLATO**

#### **Middle School (6-9)**

The middle school years are a complex time in a learner's life, transitioning out of elementary grades while not yet in high school. Some need more challenges than the average classroom can give them. Others may have skill gaps that require intervention and remediation.

Helping middle school students stay on track to successfully transition to high school is the focus of **PLATO® Learning's** online middle school curriculum. Whether it's providing online courses or offering blended learning options to keep students engaged and demanding schedules accommodated, PLATO's education solutions can help.

**PLATO online curriculum features exemptive pre-tests to determine student placement and end-of-semester tests to confirm learning has occurred, includes support materials for ease of use, and are aligned to national standards, with state coverage reports available.** What's more, courses can be customized to meet your state or district's specific needs. That means every one of your students stays motivated and engaged in learning.

### **High School (9-12)**

**High school can be a complicated time for many students, as they emerge from middle school and begin moving toward the larger demands of adult life.** Because finishing and doing well in high school has such a big influence not only getting into college but also on better job options and even a student's overall sense of well-being, finding the right online curriculum for high school programs—one that keeps students motivated and engaged—is essential.

**PLATO® Learning is an industry leader in secondary instructional solutions, offering comprehensive libraries of rigorous, interactive courses and assessments.** Through high-quality content and superior multimedia, high school students are captivated by learning—which leads to maximum, consistent, and replicative results. Online high school courses make it possible to accommodate various learning styles and needs. Our comprehensive, 4 x 4 online high school courses address everything from credit recovery to preparation for high-stakes exams and nearly everything in between, including Advanced Placement and global languages.

**Keeping high school students on track to pass state-mandated assessments and transition to college and/or career is the focus of PLATO Learning's secondary education solutions.** Through customizable courses and research-based online programs, your students will have what they need to achieve academic success.

### **READING A-Z.COM (The district has purchased 70 staff licenses, and they are being used from K-5.)**

Readinga-z.com is a literacy website that provides a variety of reading resources for teachers. Many teachers in our district use this website to download leveled texts for their students. This website also features decodable texts, reader's theatre scripts, poetry, running records to go along with benchmark leveled texts, vocabulary & fluency activities, phonics, alphabet and projectable books. This site is highly used by staff to supplement their reading materials. Please refer to this link for information about the correlation of readinga-z.com with Common Core State Standards. <http://www.readinga-z.com/commoncore/>

**\*DRAFT - revised  
~~October, 2012~~  
November 6, 2012**