

Quaker Valley Balanced Literacy Program

Changes to the K-5 Reading Program

Guided Reading

Guided reading is a strategy that helps students become successful readers. The teacher provides support for small groups of readers as they learn to use various reading strategies. Guided reading can be used successfully in all grade levels.

Phonics

The goal of phonics instruction is to enable beginning readers to decode new words by blending sound-spelling patterns. Students are taught to use cumulative word blending, read decodable text and encode words with grade appropriate spelling patterns.

Daily 5 System

The Daily 5 is a management system that helps students to become more independent during guided reading. The Daily 5 choices are: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Word Work (Word Study) and Listen to Reading. During guided reading, students may read self-selected books at their reading level, practice word study and write each day.

Word Study

The goal of the word study program is to understand patterns within words (as opposed to memorizing spelling words) in order to enhance both vocabulary growth and spelling development. Based on students' developmental levels, we use a teacher-directed, child-centered approach when teaching word study.

Journeys

This year, Quaker Valley adopted Journeys as its new reading series. This series incorporates current best practices as well as all elements of a balanced literacy program. A strong phonics approach is utilized along with whole group instruction, guided reading and daily writing instruction.

Writing

The 6+1 Traits of Writing model is an approach to teaching and assessing writing that focuses on the qualities needed to become a successful writer. This writing model focuses on: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation.