

Keeneyville Elementary School District 20

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

FOUR BLOCK SYSTEM

Definitions

In order to facilitate a common understanding in District 20 regarding the four components of the 4 Block reading system, the following definitions were written by the members of the Language Arts Committee during their summer meeting in August, 2002.

The definitions are intended to form the basis of discussion and implementation of the 4 Block system in District 20. This system of organizing reading instruction was adopted by the District in 2001. Staff will also have opportunity to learn more about the system itself, how to manage it, how to plan for it, and how to learn its impact during the coming years through district sponsored staff development classes. Many staff have already attended and studied the system and through those experiences have begun to implement some of the components in their classrooms.

Reading literacy is critically important for academic success and through the use of the 4 Block system and its components, District 20 expects students to improve their fluency, comprehension, and ability to read a wide range of reading materials.

4 BLOCK READING SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Guided Reading in the 4 Blocks demonstrates the important comprehension skills and strategies that children practice before, during and after reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction materials across content areas.

Working with Words in the 4 Blocks focuses on instruction in word analysis that provides ample opportunities to apply the knowledge of vocabulary in authentic reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Writing in the Four Blocks engages children in shared and group writing using a Writers' Workshop format with focused mini-lessons that model basic writing skills and develop writing for a variety of audiences and purposes.

Self-selected Reading in the 4 Blocks engages children in reading at their independent level in order to build fluency and comprehension using teacher read alouds, a wide variety of literature, book chats, and individual conferences.

August, 2002