

# GUIDED READING

## at North Star Central Elementary

Guided Reading is an essential part of our reading program at North Star Central Elementary. Teachers began using the program in the Kindergarten classrooms in the year 2004. The program moved along through grade 4 with the students. We now use the program throughout our entire building.

Guided Reading is a strategy that helps students become good readers. The teacher, educational aides and parent volunteers provide support for small groups of readers as they learn to use various reading strategies (context clues, letter and sound relationships, word structure, and so forth). Although Guided Reading has been traditionally associated with primary grades we have modified the program and use it successfully in all grades K through 4.

When the proper books are selected, students are able to read with at least 90% accuracy. This enables the students to enjoy the story because there is not an overwhelming amount of "road blocks" that interfere with comprehension. Students focus on the meaning of the story and application of various reading strategies to problem solve when they do hit a road block in their knowledge or reading ability. By providing small groups of students the opportunity to learn various reading strategies with guidance from the teacher, they will possess the skills and knowledge required to read increasingly more difficult texts on their own. Independent reading is the GOAL - Guided Reading provides the framework to ensure that students are able to apply strategies to understand what they have read.

North Star Central Elementary uses the Direct Instruction Method of Guided Reading. The Direct Instruction Strategy is highly teacher-directed and is among the most commonly used. This strategy is effective for providing information or developing step-by-step skills. It also works well for introducing other teaching methods, or actively involving students in knowledge construction. This strategy is the most effective and depends on the assistance of our Educational Assistants and the parent volunteers.

Guided Reading begins with the assessment of each child and the determination of their reading level. The child is then grouped according to his/her ability and divided into small groups for instruction. The teachers, Educational Assistants and parent volunteers run each group from a teacher scripted plan for that session. The Educational Assistants rotate among the grade levels to assist the students. Our Guided Reading period is approximately 35 minutes for each grade level.

Parents play an integral part in our Guided Reading Program. All students should bring home a Guided Reading book for practice almost every night. We ask our parents to take a few minutes and listen to their child read this book. Rereading of the Guided Reading book each night allows the students to build reading fluency and confidence.

Our goal, with this piece of our reading program is to increase the reading ability and the enjoyment of reading for all of our students and provide a high quality education for your children.

Dawn A. Maluchnick,  
North Star Central Elementary Principal