

RtII and Assessments

at

North Star Central

At North Star Central we have put into place a state initiated program called Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII), which is an array of procedures that can be used to determine if and how students respond to specific changes in instruction. RtII provides an improved process and structure for school teams in designing, implementing, and evaluating educational interventions. Our RtII period (35 -45 minutes) was put into place for both reading and math. During this period, students are instructed on their individual strengths or challenges as determined by a universal screening program (NWEA). In order to implement the RtII period, a few changes needed to be made in our reading program.

Our current reading program is structured as follows (K-3):

This year North Star Central adopted a new research-based and standards driven reading series to instruct all students (60 minutes). The students then break into Guided Reading Groups for instruction on their reading level (35 minutes). In addition to Guided Reading, our students are then further broken down into specific instructional groups for RtII instruction (35 minutes).

In order to improve academic growth for all students, we must understand each student's needs. At North Star Central, we do that by using various forms of building-wide assessments. In grades K-4, we give the DRA and the NWEA.

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) gives the teachers clear individual reading levels based on fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. We use the DRA to place students into their correct Guided Reading programs.

With the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) computerized Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, teachers have immediate access to scores as students complete their tests. This reporting package provides teachers with class reports that show and track academic diversity and student performance. These assessments provide teachers with an efficient way to assess achievement levels and provide information to guide instruction. It allows teachers to "drill down" on each skill or concept to view class and student performance. For example, the NWEA can tell us that a student is weak in long vowel sounds or basic addition facts to 10 and the students are then divided into groups for instruction based on need during the RtII period. We use the NWEA and the RtII Instructional time to "Plug the Holes" in a child's learning.

Students that do not show a specific need and score advanced on the NWEA Assessment report to our Unified Arts teachers for enrichment activities during RtII.

At North Star Central, we keep improving to make sure that we create a well-integrated system of instruction/intervention guided by child outcome data to provide your child with the best education possible.