

LITERACY STATEMENT

Introduction:

Literacy is the most important component in preparing students to become lifelong learners who are active and independent readers, writers, and thinkers. Teachers are obligated to continually provide students with the opportunity to access, understand, and use different types of information in oral, written, and reading engagements.

Philosophy:

In addition to being able to read and write, student literacy enhances content knowledge and promotes a deeper conceptual understanding. Literacy struggles can impede student progress and create barriers to learning.

Content:

Literacy plays a crucial role in learning science. Students will learn only if they are able to read, write, and comprehend scientific concepts. Furthermore, literacy not only leads to students understanding the true nature of science but it also clarifies how science connects to other content areas, impacts individuals, and contributes to society.

Pedagogy:

Learning is an active experience and must be made relevant and authentic. It is imperative that teachers use a wide variety of materials in addition to textbooks. In addition, literacy is a social experience and students should be given the opportunity to collaborate. This further exposes students to strategies involved in comprehension.

Management:

Successful learning, and not behavior management, should be the focus of both teacher and students. Students who are properly engaged in learning are less likely to entertain themselves in other ways. This contributes to a learning environment which is safe, respectful, and responsive for all.

Diversity:

Literacy engagements provide ideal opportunities for exploring diversity, which is ever-increasing in today's student population. Incorporating materials addressing various ethnicities, dispositions, and genders is important in facilitating student knowledge and understanding of diversity.

Assessment:

Formal examination is not the only way to measure student learning. Teacher evaluation can include using alternative methods such as assessing student-constructed journals, portfolios, projects, and presentations. Parents, other school personnel, and the community should also be included so as to encourage students to share their gained knowledge with others.