



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

The Reading Program at St. Joseph Catholic School provides additional reading support to students in Grades Kindergarten through 5. Instruction is individualized to the needs of each specific student in the small group setting.

How is it determined which students enters the Reading Program?

The **Aimswell Plus Benchmark Screening Tool** is administered in the Fall, Winter, and Spring to all students in Grades K-5. Specific reading areas such as letter and sound recognition, reading decoding and fluency are targeted as part of this assessment. After this initial assessment, the Reading Specialist collaborates with the classroom teachers and identifies students in need of extra reading support. These students are given additional reading assessments individually, to determine entry level into these specific research-based reading programs.

What research - based reading programs are utilized as part of instruction?

- The **Read Well Program** provides systematic, explicit instruction and addresses the five areas of Reading, (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension).
- The **PALS Program** focuses on letter names and sound identification. Students also practice blending and segmenting three letter words through this program.
- The **Explode the Code Program** teaches the basic phonics concepts. Kindergarten students practice blending and segmenting words with short vowel sounds to further develop their reading and spelling skills.
- The **Read Naturally Program** focuses on reading fluency. Students are given non-fiction reading passages to read aloud. Through repeated readings, teacher modeling, and a targeted “words per minute goal” students improve their reading fluency rate. When the targeted words per minute goal is achieved, students are given more difficult passages to read and respond to questions about each passage to develop their comprehension skills.
- The **Megawords Program** focuses on the teaching of rules and generalizations as a way to sound out and spell unfamiliar multisyllabic words in a sequential progression of skills.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students receive instruction in the **Read Well, PALS, and Explode the Code Programs** (see descriptions above).

First through Second Grade

First and Second grade students receive instruction in the **Read Well** and **Explode the Code Programs**. Second grade students also receive instruction in the **Read Naturally Program**. (see descriptions above).

Third through Fifth Grade

Third through Fifth Grade students continue in the **Explode the Code** and the **Read Naturally Programs**. They also receive instruction in the **Megawords Program**. (see descriptions above)

How long do students continue in the Reading Program at St. Joseph School?

Students enrolled in the Reading Program are progress monitored 2-3 times per month with the AimsWebPlus Progress Monitoring tool. This computer-generated progress monitoring tool, "charts" student progress and provides detailed information of student progress toward grade level achievement in the targeted reading areas assessed.

When the student reaches grade-level goals that were targeted for them, the Reading Specialist confers with the student's classroom teacher to discuss reading progress in both the classroom and pullout setting. If the classroom teacher agrees that the student's reading is at grade-level expectations, a transition plan is developed for the student to exit the Reading Program. If the student is not making progress, the Reading Specialist contacts the student's classroom teacher and an alternate plan is discussed.

If you have additional questions about St. Joseph's Reading Program, please contact the Reading Specialist, Paula Jovien at pjovien@sjsdg.org.