Literacy in Garden City

At Garden City Public Schools, we embrace a comprehensive approach to literacy that is rooted in the New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards and New York State's Science of Reading Literacy Briefs. Our commitment to excellence in literacy instruction is achieved through a thoughtful blend of research-based practices, where students develop a strong foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and metacognition skills.

In our comprehensive reading instruction, we provide explicit guidance in essential areas such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. By immersing students in a variety of instructional approaches, including the w, small group whole class instruction, small group work, and individualized instruction, we foster a deep understanding of the reciprocal nature of reading and writing. Students receive direct phonics instruction, which includes the application of phonics principles using decodable texts. They develop fluency, expand vocabulary, and engage in meaningful reading that promotes comprehension and critical thinking. Students expand personal and background knowledge, make connections, monitor for meaning, and build vocabulary. They actively communicate and share perspectives with peers while reading a variety of literature and informational texts for both learning and pleasure.

Our comprehensive writing instruction is grounded in strengthening the writing process, guiding students through the stages of immersion, generating ideas, selecting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. We place a strong emphasis on the teaching of writing structure, development, and conventions, alongside providing explicit instruction in language structure and conventions. Students write often and widely for multiple purposes in a variety of formats including narrative, informational, and opinion pieces. They analyze a multitude of mentor texts to experiment with language and elevate their writing. Students effectively express their ideas and perspectives while persevering through writing tasks, utilizing both print and digital resources in guided and independent experiences. Through this comprehensive approach, students are coached to refine their writing skills, communicate effectively, and express their ideas with confidence.

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To ensure effective instruction and meet the individual needs of our students, we employ diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments that inform our teaching practices. By using assessments to drive instruction, we tailor our approaches to better engage learners and help them develop the essential skills needed for success. These assessment approaches allow us to provide targeted support, identify areas for growth, and nurture individual progress.

Our instruction is designed to promote active learning and encourage collaboration among teachers and students. We provide ample opportunities for hands-on practice, enabling students to apply their knowledge, refine their skills, and actively participate in their learning journey. By fostering collaboration and creating a supportive learning environment, we nurture a sense of community among our students.

At Garden City Public Schools, we believe that literacy is the key to unlocking a world of possibilities for our students. Through our comprehensive approach, grounded in research-based practices and the Next Generation English Language Arts Standards, we empower our students to become successful readers, writers, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners.