

SFUSD All Family & Caregiver Curriculum Newsletter: Pilot Update (Fall 2023)

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Thank you for being engaged in your student's learning! Your involvement is so important to the overall success of the PK-5 literacy pilot and adoption process. We appreciate you taking the time to get to know what your student is learning in Language Arts this year and the support and encouragement you provide to your student to help them succeed. We are midway through our Language Arts Core Curriculum pilot process and wanted to give you an update.

Why are we piloting new PK-5 Language Arts Curriculum?

- It has been over 10 years since SFUSD has adopted new Language Arts curriculum
- In the 2021-2022 school year, SFUSD underwent an external audit of our written and taught curriculum. This audit recommended the adoption of new Language Arts curriculum to support the teaching of the Common Core State Standards.
- In order to support our district's goals around third grade literacy proficiency and equity, SFUSD seeks to create greater coherence and consistency across classrooms and schools citywide through the use of shared curriculum.

What does the curriculum include?

	Students will...	This matters because...
Foundational Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build their phonological awareness and phonics skills• Learn Sound/spelling patterns to be able to read and write words• Practice applying phonics skills to read decodable texts and build fluency in reading	Daily, explicit, and systematic reading foundational skills instruction is a research-aligned approach that supports students to become accurate, efficient decoders. Predictable routines and regular practice with these skills will support your child's ability to read fluently, understand what they read and grow their confidence.
Reading and Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read grade level complex text to build knowledge of topics aligned to social studies and/or science• Answer questions about text that require them to find and incorporate specific text evidence into their speaking and writing.• Engage in the writing process to publish narrative, informational and opinion pieces.• Build critical thinking skills as they analyze text and make connections between texts and topics.	As students learn to read and dig deeper, they build their knowledge and vocabulary of important topics and build their skill at making connections between the texts they're reading and the world around them. When students engage in daily writing they not only build their skill at writing structured, grammatically correct and compelling pieces, they also build writing stamina and have opportunities to define their unique writing voice.
English Language Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn conventional grammar rules• Integrated and Designated ELD to supports Multilingual Learners using grade level text and lessons that build or expand language arts lessons.	In order for multilingual learners to develop proficiency in English, they need daily instruction in how English works, and meaningful practice to apply that understanding in reading, writing and collaborating with peers.

How can I help my student at home?



You can help your students at home by asking them about what they are learning in class. For instance, you can ask your student about what new words they have learned and to retell a story they enjoyed. You can ask about the key features of writing they have done or historical people or events they have learned about. To be involved in the Pilot process, learn more about why the materials were selected, and to share your perspective please see [here](#).

Are there any key events or dates I should be aware of?

- **October 12th** End of *Into Reading* Pilot
- **November 27th – February 2nd** *Benchmark Advanced* 3rd-5th grade Pilot
- **Spring 2024** – School Board Recommendation meeting

Thank you for all that you do!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Lisa Levin LevinL@sfusd.edu /Katie Eller EllerK@sfusd.edu .

