



LAKE MILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

It is the mission of Lake Mills Community School that through our collective efforts, we are committed to teaching and learning for all.

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Literacy HQIM 2025-2026

At Lake Mills Community School District, we believe that literacy is the foundation for all learning. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are essential skills that open doors to academic success and life-long opportunities. From our youngest learners beginning to recognize sounds and letters, to our high school students analyzing complex texts, our goal is to help every student become confident, capable, and thoughtful communicators.

To support this mission, we use High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) that are research-based, standards-aligned, and designed to meet the diverse learning needs of all students. Through our Formative Assessment Instructional Process we determine what is essential based on the Iowa Core Standards. These programs provide a consistent framework for instruction while allowing teachers flexibility to meet students' current knowledge and skills.

High-Quality Instructional Materials:

- Build Knowledge and skills in a coherent, developmentally appropriate sequence.
- Provide teachers with strong instructional support and strategies.
- Ensure consistency, equity, and rigor across all classrooms.

Our selected HQIM resources support systematic, explicit literacy instruction - including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing - while engaging students with meaningful texts and authentic learning experiences.

Below, you'll find the list of the High Quality Instructional Materials currently used in our district. Each title includes the publisher's website where you can learn more about the program's structure, instructional approach, and resources available for families.

K-5

Core

- Wonders: [Website](#)
- Heggerty: [Website](#)

- UFLI K-3: [Website](#)

Supplemental Materials

- University of Florida Literacy Institute: [Website](#)

6-12

Core

We address each of the 6-12 ELA standards through selected pieces of literature and primary sources. We do not use a purchased curriculum. Beyond short stories, articles, and poetry students will read the following:

- 6th Grade: Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo , Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan, A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, Nonfiction: Rainforest, Richard Wright and the Library Card, Mama Played Baseball, The Anatomy of a Volcanic Eruption, Blown Away When Krakatoa Exploded, Wilma Rudolph: Walk Before she Can Run, Clean Water, Ancient Cities, Exploring the Deep Sea
- 7th Grade: Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse, Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom, The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, Wonder by RJ Palacio.
- 8th Grade: An American Hero Unit, Night, DC Tours, Trapped, Genocide Unit
- English 9: Writing Unit, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Odyssey by Homer, Nonfiction-Leadership, Greek Myths
- English 10: Short Stories, Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Mice of Men by John Steinbeck, Nonfiction-Individual
- English 11: Nonfiction lit circles, ISEARCH (individual), Crucible, Journalism Writing Unit
- English 12: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Short stories
- Effective Communication: Effective Speech Communication Textbook, Speeches are Student interest based.
- Mythologies: Greek Mythologies

Supplemental Materials

- Remedia: [website](#)
- No Red Ink: [website](#)

These materials guide daily instruction and ensure that every student receives engaging, evidence-based, and standards-aligned literacy learning opportunities. Together, these resources help teachers foster a love of reading and writing while building the skills students need to succeed across all subject areas.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the instructional materials we use, please don't hesitate to reach out. We value your partnership in supporting student learning.

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