

Star View Elementary School Model Programs and Practices

School Information

CDS (County District School) Code: 30666136029706

County: Orange

District (Local Educational Agency): Ocean View

School: Star View Elementary School

Demographics

Enrollment: 498 students

Location Description: Suburban

Title I Funded: No

School Calendar: Traditional

Charter: No

Overview

Star View Elementary School is located in the western region of Huntington Beach and serves students in grades transitional kindergarten through fifth following a traditional calendar. Star View is proud to be a California Distinguished School 2012 and California Gold Ribbon School 2016. Star View Elementary is a dynamic and unique school among the eleven elementary schools in the Ocean View School District. Although much of the District is in Huntington Beach, Star View serves students from Westminster, Midway City, and Fountain Valley. Our current population of 498 students reflects the ethnic diversity of our community and the exemplary reputation of how Star View School shines in our community. Star View's overall student distribution is comprised of 22% Hispanic or Latino, 16% White, 54% Asian.

The epitome of a model school, our warm and caring atmosphere is balanced with the highest level of professionalism and commitment to student success. Star View Elementary teachers pride themselves in maintaining a high level of expertise based on current practices, often sharing their knowledge throughout the school and District. A variety of instructional strategies are implemented to meet diverse student needs,

promote student achievement, foster independence, build character and encourage lifelong learning.

The mission of Star View Elementary School is to provide all students with a high quality educational program which: meets their individual, social, emotional, and physical health needs; creates a school environment that will best promote the learning necessary for each student to acquire maximum knowledge and experience; and fosters in each student a feeling of personal worth and philosophy that encompasses worthy moral and ethical values; and sustains a growing awareness of our interdependence with society and the environment. OVSD's Vision that drives our direction is a commitment to ensuring a dynamic and collaborative learning community that prepares all students for lifelong success.

On any given day, a visitor to Star View will observe teachers, students, and community volunteers collaborating to ensure the smooth operation of our site. Volunteers donate thousands of hours a year helping in classrooms, organizing school events, supporting office staff, working in the library, and preparing instructional materials for teachers. Star View's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), School Site Council (SSC), and English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) boast a high level of member participation with regular meeting attendance and a perspective that enhances school-wide decision-making and improvement. Star View is proud of its partnership with the Anaheim Duck's S.C.O.R.E. program, Tiger Woods Learning Center and Junior Achievement. Star View's commitment to the success of all students' results from an open partnership among parents, students, community, and our professional staff. We truly Shine with Awesome Results!

Model Program and Practices

Name of Model Program/Practice: Authentic Literacy

Length of Model Program/Practice: 2–4 years

Target Area(s): Closing the Achievement Gap, Professional Development

Target Population(s): Asian, Hispanic, White, Two or More Races, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, English Learners, Students with Disabilities

Strategies Used: School Climate, Small Learning Communities, Parent Engagement, Data-Driven Decision Making, Social/Emotional/Behavioral Support, Professional Development, Implementation of Academic Standards Basics (Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities)

Description

In order to engage students and provide opportunities for learners to read rigorous texts, compare and contrast reading passages, collaboratively discuss purpose, audience, evidence, and rationale, Star View has developed inspiring units of study

through authentic literacy across all areas of the curriculum. At Star View, we recognize that our students are highly engaged in learning when teachers explain, “Why are we doing this?” When our students know the purpose behind our literacy activities, they are engaged and invested in the learning process. Authentic literacy starts with a provocative question. In turn, Star View students are invested in the process of learning, not just the product.

In order to prepare our students for college, career, and life, our role is to develop their capabilities to be literate. This requires a focus on developing independence; building strong content knowledge; helping students respond by critiquing; valuing evidence; using technology to enhance; and understanding other perspectives and cultures. Our instructional program includes a variety of text types, and we focus on engaging students through meaningful interactions with various genres. Students enjoy our library, which provides weekly read alouds and a chance to select high interest books.

Within the past two years, authentic literacy at Star View grew from an idea to daily practice. Our teachers increased focus on work with non-fiction texts, experience-based learning, and discussions. Our students collaborate with teachers as they engage in rich reading, writing, and discussion activities. With over 30 hours of professional development targeted at raising rigor in reading and writing our staff have the tools and skills necessary to provide effective instruction. Continued staff training in Write from the Beginning, Depth and Complexity and close reading strategies provide the structure resulting in higher achievement for all our learners. A unique feature at Star View is our love for Performing Arts. Every class performs a class play. First graders sing the stages of animal Life Cycles while Fifth Graders present the history of the American Revolution. The age-appropriate plays pique students’ interest and foster engagement. Through activities such as our plays, assemblies, guest speakers and events, there is a tight connection to authentic literacy.

Authentic materials in our instruction give our students the opportunity to investigate others’ perspectives and build empathy and understanding. Kindergarten students focus on social skills and self-awareness. They read books, discuss and write about behavior choices and friendship. Fifth grade students participate in a living “wax museum.” Each student chooses an American historical figure, researches their life, and creates a presentation which evaluates their ideas and perspective. All of these activities further expand the opportunities to infuse authentic literacy throughout the curriculum.

Implementation and Monitoring

The implementation of Star View’s model program of authentic literacy began with clearly stated goals in our Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). The action plan in the SPSA addresses each aspect of our program. These actions include: close and critical reading strategies, provocative questions, academic vocabulary, designated ELD instruction, universal access, differentiated instruction, and support for at-risk students and ELD students by specialists and paraprofessionals.

Teacher leaders from Star View worked with other schools across the district diving deeper into the ELA/ELD Framework. Information was shared with all Star View staff to build internal capacity around the research and key instructional practices integral to authentic literacy program. Site leaders share their expertise in various instructional strategies to support teachers at the site. The principal is in the role as the lead learner, working alongside teacher leaders and staff to build her instructional leadership capacity and to develop best teaching practices.

Star View encourages parents and community to become active participants in all aspects of our practice of building authentic literacy. Star View has a unique partnership with the Anaheim Ducks, who donated and built a street hockey rink on our campus. The Ducks provide materials and assemblies that we purposely use to connect to writing and project-based learning. The Star View community's annual Tet Festival (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) was created to reflect many of our students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds. These opportunities increase student engagement, tying their interests to literacy skills. Our active parent groups includes classroom volunteers who support the success of students by reinforcing foundational skills, reading to and with students, and working at centers with small groups. As of February, 2018, 1810 volunteer hours have been logged.

Monitoring the success of our program occurs informally through observation of small group and class discussion. Teachers monitor progress of student work daily to encourage improvement in listening, speaking, critical thinking, and writing. Teachers administer formal and authentic assessments to measure proficiency in comprehension, academic vocabulary, and fluency. Teachers use rubrics to measure growth and proficiency in writing. Using the results of these assessments, teachers continue to collaborate weekly to refine and align their units of study.

Star View's demographics make teacher monitoring critical to the success of our students. With a population of 48.1% SED and an EL population of 36.3%, many families are unable to provide support for struggling students. In the first 100 days of school, one first grade student increased eleven levels in reading solely through working individually with her teacher. As a result of this teacher's commitment, Star View's learning community gained one more reader with an "I can do it!" attitude.

Results and Outcomes

The school plan goal is focused on our model practice of authentic literacy and includes action steps used to monitor and assess the effectiveness throughout the year. In all grade levels, student progress is monitored continually using authentic and project-based assessments. Classroom discussion, projects, Thinking Maps, and writing assignments are used to monitor student understanding. This qualitative data is analyzed so that teachers can inform instruction and monitor successful outcomes in all student groups. Individual students or targeted student groups needing additional support are easily identified so that they can receive small group intervention.

Throughout the school year, multiple measures aligned to the grade level standards are used to monitor student progress, which provides quantitative data for written analysis. Teachers input scores into the Illuminate student data system so data can easily be examined and disaggregated to examine results for targeted groups. These results are analyzed during grade level meetings, staff meetings, and professional development days. We focus on our authentic literacy strategies in staff meetings, using our own teacher leaders to model effective practices and build capacity. Additionally, we have data dive days where grade level teams analyze student outcomes and identify areas of strength and areas needing additional support. Star View teachers make regular adjustments to lessons based on these findings to maximize student learning.

Star View is proud of the growth of our students on the CAASP in 2017. According to the California School Dashboard, every reported subgroup showed an increase or significant increase in scores. ELA scores reflect a status of “high” and a significant increase of 16 points between 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 for all Star View students. In contrast, across OVSD, all students showed an increase of 3.3 points. Within our targeted subgroups, our English Learner subgroup increased significantly by 15.1 points and our Hispanic subgroup made a significant increase of 37.5 points. In 2017, 81% of students in grades 3–5 are above, at, or near the standard as compared to the 2016 rate of 74%.

As a result of our diligence and student-based authentic literacy practices, our students are excited to come to school to learn. Star View is proud of our low rate of absenteeism, with monthly attendance figures continuing to average 97% and higher during the past three years. Suspensions have decreased in 2017–2018 and continue to be a focus.

The Star View community is proud of our growing achievement, but consistently strives to build on this success. Based on measurable data, we will continue to expand and refine our practice of authentic literacy, digging even deeper into all curricular areas to meet the needs of all subgroups. We will continue to research and implement exemplary teaching practices that meet the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse population.