



**Brecksville
Broadview Heights
City School District**

Literacy Instruction & Curriculum Position Statement

The purpose for this communication is to provide clarity and assurance that literacy instruction at the elementary level in BBHCS is focused on standards-driven instruction and building professional capacity in staff to meet the needs of all students.

Governor DeWine, in his February state-of-the-state address, noted a particular agenda item focused on the science of reading. Shortly prior to his announcement and based on current research, BBHCS began training staff in the science of reading. While the governor's full education plan has yet to be released, we are hopeful appropriate funding will accompany it in the future.

Staff members, all K-1 and a number of additional staff members, began Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training as part the retooling of our knowledge and expertise as well as in fulfillment of the legal requirement for Ohio's dyslexia legislation. This retooling, especially in the early grades, focuses on an intentional structured and systematic literacy approach that centers on the science of reading. Science of reading training will be ongoing over the next several years expanding into additional grade levels.

It is important to note that, while we purchased Fountas & Pinnell resources several years ago, materials do not drive student learning, rather standards, teacher knowledge, and expertise on how to respond to the literacy needs of all students does indeed have the greatest impact on reading development and growth. Governor DeWine has mentioned that materials using the three cueing method will not be permitted in Ohio schools. To date, BBHCS has neither trained classroom teachers or staff in the three cueing method, nor certified any staff in Reading Recovery.

In sum, materials are important but do not drive student learning. We will continue to use all pertinent and relevant Board adopted literacy materials for the sole purpose of teaching our students the grade-level standards. We can, and are prepared to, utilize supplemental materials in certain areas of the curriculum.

Students are at the center of all we do in BBHCS. We believe and practice standards-driven instruction, not only in literacy, but for all content areas:

- We believe in anchoring all instruction and learning in Ohio's learning standards.
- We believe in utilizing data-driven, evidence-based instruction and decision making.
- We believe in utilizing assessments directly aligned to Ohio's learning standards to collect data on student growth and mastery, and adjusting and adapting instruction to meet the literacy needs of all students.
- We believe in fostering a culture of continuous learning for both students and staff.
- We believe that learning is a lifelong pursuit and that everyone has the capacity to grow and continually learn.
- We believe in providing supportive learning environments that encourage curiosity, exploration, high levels of literacy - as well as a love of literacy - to help all students and staff in our BBHCS family achieve their full potential.