

First-Year SRI Scores Soar in Middle School!



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Although our staff and students worked diligently to improve reading in our middle school over the years, we found ourselves in search of a program that would meet every student's individual need. Success for All met all the criteria we were looking for in a reading program. It provided a structured program that accelerated reading as it rapidly moved students from one level to the next. The SFA Middle School reading program compliments our already existing language arts classes. It was added to provide students with an extra period of vocabulary enrichment, fluency, and comprehension.

We are proud to say, as a first year SFA middle school, that our pupils in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades have improved their Scholastic Reading Inventory scores at the end of the first term. In just this short amount of time, it is evident that the program is meeting the school's plan of action that "No Child will be Left Behind."

As one tours the reading classrooms, one would first recognize a change in climate. Every student is actively engaged at each level. This time provides students an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers. For the first time, we have cooperative groups in action throughout the entire school. Students work in pairs to read to partners and they work in groups of four to discuss and recall events.

Even though we are in the infancy stage and are beginning to learn all the elements that have been weaved into the program, our intentions are to refine each lesson through formal and informal component meetings and to continue this training from year to year. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this smooth induction of SFA Middle School reading. First, our principal, Mr. Evans, has attended the conferences to learn about the program and is always visible during instruction. As a matter of fact, our entire administration has played a crucial role in the successful implementation of the program. Both Mrs. Colman and Mr. Webb, our assistant principals, continue to observe and provide feedback. Mrs. Janet Braut, our SFA Trainer, has also been an integral part of the program. She has provided instruction and guidance through this stage of learning a new program.

Our staff at Mace's Lane School all play an important role, from our physical education teachers to our guidance counselor, all teaching reading in order to meet our students' needs. I am proud to be part of a team that implemented SFA reading so that all of our students could achieve success.

Editor's note: For more information about Mace's Lane, visit their website at <http://www.mlms.dcpsmd.net/>