

## Natural Science Academy Literacy Plan

### Literacy Goals and Objectives

- \*All students will be proficient in reading by the end of third grade.
- \*All students will progress through the year toward their reading goals.
- \*Students not showing appropriate growth will receive targeted instruction to work toward goals.
- \*All students will receive instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- \*Students will read and write every day.
- \*Students will read and write across all curricular areas.

Reading proficiency will be based on the definition provided by NWEA's MAP test given three times per year at Natural Science Academy.

### Assessing Students

\*NWEA's MAP test is given in the fall as a diagnostic assessment of student levels in reading and writing skills. This helps teachers know where to start instruction and who needs review or targeted instruction. It is given again in the winter to assess progress and to direct instruction. The MAP test is given a third time in the spring to determine proficiency and to identify any end of the year targeted needs. Results from the NWEA MAP test will be communicated to parents during fall and spring conferences, and will be mailed to parents when winter testing is completed.

\*Reading assessments written by Brenda M. Weaver, Ed.D. will be given every 12 weeks to K-2 students. A diagnostic assessment will be given at the beginning of the year. Another will be given at 12 week, 24 week, and 36 week intervals. This will direct instruction, inform groupings, and determine intervention needs. This tool assesses concepts of print, word recognition, comprehension and fluency, and writing skills. Parents will be informed of the results of this assessment through a teacher e-mail indicating findings, what the next steps will be in reading instruction, and how parents can help at home.

\*Other classroom formative assessments will be given throughout the school year as determined by teaching staff to direct instruction and ensure student progress. Teachers will report any concerns with student progress to parents along with ideas on how parents can help at home.

### Parent Involvement

- Books may be sent home for parents and children to read together.
- Ideas to support reading may be posted on teacher web pages and/or NSA's Facebook page.
- Opportunities to purchase books for home libraries will be given through Scholastic Book Clubs and two Usborne Book Fairs.
- A Read-a-Thon event will take place in the spring.
- Classroom teachers may send home reading and/or writing projects which could cross curricular areas.
- Classroom teachers may send home information on reading websites for students to use at home.
- Intervention strategies and ideas will be given to parents of students who are not making sufficient progress.

### Curriculum and Instruction Systems including Interventions

\*All literacy instruction follows Minnesota State Standards published in 2010. Classroom teachers use these standards to direct instruction.

\*Reading instruction includes the following five components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It also includes the following teaching strategies: read alouds; shared

reading; group or guided reading; independent reading; reading in all curricular areas; whole group, small group, and/or individual instruction.

\*All students take part in 15 minutes of Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) each day.

\*Trade books and Reading A-Z books are used for guided reading and leveled reading instruction.

\*Parts of the Literacy by Design curriculum may be used when appropriate in the classroom as guided by the Minnesota 2010 ELA Academic Standards.

\*Daily Five and/or Café by the Two Sisters is used for literacy instruction in the classroom.

\*Targeted lessons for intervention at every student's level are built into the literacy program at Natural Science Academy.

### **Professional Development**

\*Professional Development specific to K-3 reading is required of all K-3 classroom teachers each year and all 4-5 teachers every other year. This professional development may be reading professional publications, online classes, workshops or seminars, or school-wide professional development provided by NSA staff members. All professional development in this area must be approved by Lead Teachers. Programs/publications that are high quality, practical, encourage best practices for the teaching of reading instruction to grades K-3, and those that are relevant to our unique setting at Natural Science Academy will be approved. A summary of the professional development and a plan for using new information in the classroom will be reviewed by Lead Teachers as part of teacher evaluation. Evidence of implementation and effective use of professional development is also included in the annual teacher evaluation.

### **English Language Learners**

\*Natural Science Academy gives the W-APT test to potential ELL students in October. This will help determine their needs and service hours. Once needs are assessed, the EL teacher and Lead Teacher who supervises EL will put together a schedule of services for the student. Work will be done in the classroom when possible and out of the classroom when a more focused lesson is given. In February or March, the ACCESS for ELLs will be given to all EL students. This will show progress and determine any necessary changes to their program in the following year. Along with the EL teacher and services, the classroom teacher will familiarize themselves with EL practices and will give extra support to any EL students in their classroom. This may include but is not limited to: extra visuals, pre-reading materials to the EL student, classroom buddy, check-ins to help with directions to activities and assignments, and adjusting assignments so they are accessible to the student.

### **Feedback**

\*Feedback is welcome throughout the year at Natural Science Academy. Both parent and student satisfaction surveys are given each year which include opportunities to give feedback on the literacy program at NSA.

Natural Science Academy's Literacy Plan is included on our website at:

[www.naturalscienceacademy.org](http://www.naturalscienceacademy.org).