What is the ‘Direct Instruction Program’

The Direct Instruction Program is a literacy program which has been adopted by Sarina State High School to enhance the reading, writing and comprehension abilities of our Junior Secondary students.

To date, the program has proven successful in an academic sense, however we have also seen a marked improvement in the confidence of our students in their own ability to read, and especially to read aloud in front of other students.

At Sarina State High School, we have adopted three approaches of the Direct Instruction program to meet the needs of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students – Decoding (reading), Comprehension and Writing.

Corrective Reading

“The Corrective Reading – Decoding program is written for students who have difficulty reading accurately and fluently, the Decoding programmes provide a unique blend of teacher-directed instruction and high-frequency practice to accelerate decoding. This proven intervention programme progresses from teaching letter sounds and blending to reading passages typical of textbook material. Detailed data on performance allows students to monitor their own improvement and experience success.” (Source: McGraw-Hill, 2013)

At Sarina SHS, the Corrective Reading - Decoding program currently operates over four levels:


2. Level B1 & B2 – decoding strategies: 65 Lessons each: Designed for struggling readers who do not read fluently or who confuse similar words. Teaches students to become automatic decoders, with the increased self-confidence to; read 90 words a minute by the end of B1 and 120 words a minute by the end of B2.

3. Level C – skill applications: 125 Lessons: Created for those who experience difficulty with vocabulary and complex sentence structures, this programme bridges the gap between advanced word-attack skills and the ability to read information material. When students complete Decoding C; they read with 98% accuracy, and at a rate similar to their peers. (Source: McGraw Hill Publishing, 2013)
Corrective Reading – Comprehension

“Designed for students who read without understanding, the Comprehension programmes develop vocabulary, information, and comprehension strategies needed for academic success. This programme gives underachieving readers the opportunity to develop higher order thinking and reasoning tactics used by successful readers – applying prior knowledge, making inferences, analysing evidence.” (Source: McGraw Hill Publishing, 2013)

At Sarina SHS, we currently operate the Corrective Reading - Comprehension Levels B1 & C program, as a natural progression from doing the corresponding Corrective Reading – Decoding program. Levels A and B2 will be introduced when the need arises.

1. Level A: Thinking Basics – 60 Lessons: For students who have difficulty responding to literal questions and following directions. Builds the oral language foundation from which other comprehension skills can be developed.


3. Level C: Concept Applications – 140 lessons: Builds on skills needed for content area study in Secondary School. Students sharpen their critical reading skills and organise information for retention and reporting. Teacher-directed activities are replaced with independent study.

**Essentials for Writing**

Essentials for Writing is specifically designed to help middle/high school students write with clarity, purpose and care. Systematic, explicit instruction and daily writing assignments ensure that your students focus and structure their thinking, as well as learn strategies for accomplishing specific types of writing tasks. Appropriately scaffolded lessons prepare them to produce work that contains well developed and pertinent ideas, supporting examples, and appropriate detail. Key features include:

- Lessons which target the skills, strategies and knowledge students need to be successful on high-stakes tests
- Outline diagrams which set specific product goals to help students focus on particular aspects of their writing
- Grammar, language use and mechanics are woven throughout to improve the quality of writing


**Where will my student Begin?**

Currently at Sarina State High School, each student is tested prior to entry into the Junior School and allocated to a class based upon the results of this assessment. Students are also progressively tested to check on progress, and to graduate them to the next level where appropriate.

Special funding has been made available to us again this year and we anticipate that, with the support of our Sarina Links primary schools, we will have the opportunity to test each Year 6 and 7 student towards the end of 2014 to ensure they are allocated to the program which best suits their needs, and to ensure we have adequate resourcing for our incoming two cohorts for 2015.

**Questions?**

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