

A School's Journey: "Failing" to Distinguished

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"Student achievement was enhanced through several different methods. Monthly study groups were conducted where teachers learned strategies to integrate all subject areas, including technology, as well as learned the importance of reading data and using student assessment to drive their instruction. Weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) were held where teachers were able to assess student work, share best teaching practices, and collaborate. Because of the above, Tier 1 whole group instruction was enriched and strengthened. All grade-levels also had a Tier 2, 30-minute math intervention and 30-minute language arts intervention time each day where highly-trained classroom aides supported the classroom teacher. This allowed teachers and aides to differentiate with smaller groups, serving the gifted/high-ability learners, as well as the struggling learners. Before or after school, twice a week, 1-to-1 or 1-to-2 intense tutoring was provided for students in grades 2nd-5th. The CRT Olympics Program was implemented for 3rd-5th grade students. This motivational, creative program resulted in students, parents, and teachers all taking ownership for this important measurement of achievement. Parent involvement in terms of volunteering in the classroom, transporting their children to tutoring, Math & Literacy Nights, and serving as their child's "Coach" during the CRT Olympics, all contributed to Coral Canyon's high student achievement."

3rd Grade

2010 LA: 66%
Math: 70%
2011 LA: 93%
Math: 89%
2012 LA: 92%
Math: 83%

4th Grade

2010 LA: 77%
Math: 78%
2011 LA: 81%
Math: 86%
2012 LA: 87%
Math: 76%

5th Grade

2010 LA: 74%
Math: 70%
2011 LA: 85%
Math: 80%
2012 LA: 90%
Math: 87%

Study Groups:

Monthly study groups were conducted where teachers learned strategies to integrate all subject areas, including technology, as well as learned the importance of reading data and using student assessment to drive their instruction. The focus of each study group was determined by each grade-level team, depending on their individual needs. The Staff Developer, Title I Site Coordinator, and Reading Interventionists planned and delivered instruction given at each study groups. Tier I instruction was enriched and strengthened. Each grade-level spent ½ day in a study group from September – March.

Approximate Cost:

Substitutes (\$9,000)
Snacks (\$1,000)
Supplies: folders, hi-lighters, notebooks, flashdrives, etc. (\$1000) Total: \$11,000

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs):

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and student learning outcomes report the following results: Smaller achievement gaps between students from different backgrounds, greater academic gains in math, science, history and reading, decreased dropout rate, lower rates of absenteeism. Teachers ask three questions: 1) Where do we want our students to be? 2) How are we going to get them there? 3) What are we going to do if they don't get there? Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) were held where teachers were able to assess student work, share best teaching practices, and collaborate. We

meet before school one day a week from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. The first week of the month is school-wide and then grade level meets individually the other weeks in the month. The Principal, Staff Developer, Title I Site Coordinator, and Reading Interventionists attend PLCs as specifically needed by a grade.

Tier 3 - Tutoring:

1-to-1 or 1-to-2 intense tutoring was provided for below-grade-level students in grades 2nd-5th twice a week, before and after school. Teachers referred students for tutoring and then the Title I Site Coordinator individually scheduled students based on teachers available to tutor and parents available to bring their student(s) to school. Monthly progress reports of each student were given to the Title I Site Coordinator and discussed in grade-level PLCs. Teachers tutored for 30 minutes each session and were given 15 minutes of prep time. One teacher also held a lunch study hall.

Parent Involvement: Parents provided transportation before school or picked up students after school

Approximate Cost:

Teachers were paid \$17.25/hour (plus retirement and taxes)

Tutoring ran from the end of September until Spring Break (Mid-March)

Each teacher that tutored was given \$100 to spend on supplies Total: \$37,000

Tier 2 - Interventions:

Interventions are 30 minutes a day/twice a day/4 days a week for reading and math in grades 1st-5th. Groups are adjusted based on each grade level's discretion according to the needs of their students and data analysis results from PLCs. Highly-trained classroom aides support the classroom teacher during these specific grade-level times. This allows differentiated instruction with smaller groups, serving the gifted/high-ability learner as well as the struggling learner and SPED students.

Parent Involvement: 11/25 classrooms (mostly K-2nd) have parent volunteers during assigned times

Approximate Cost:

one full-time K-2nd interventionist (\$60,000)

one full-time 3rd-5th interventionist (\$60,000)

five para-professionals (\$5400/each) Total: \$141,600

CRT Olympics:

The CRT Olympics Program was implemented for 3rd-5th grade students. This motivational, creative program results in students, parents, and teachers taking ownership for this important measurement of achievement. Students set individual achievement goals for the CRT test. A school-wide CRT Olympics Opening Ceremony is held to generate excitement and introduce the program to upper-grade students. Students 'qualify for CRT Olympic Events held every other week from February through April. Students 'qualify' by turning in all homework, participating in class, being at school on time, being positive, and eating right with an appropriate amount of sleep. Students that reach their goals receive an Olympic medal at the school-wide CRT Olympics Closing Ceremony the last week of school. All students that meet their goals are put into a drawing for incentive rewards. Teachers also choose 3-4 students each in the areas of Language Arts, Math, and Science to receive the overall medals. These medals go to students that achieve 100% on the tests and/or students with incredible progress.

Parent Involvement: Parents serve as their child's "Coach" during the CRT Olympics

Approximate Cost:

Granola Bars and Oranges (\$900)

CRT Reward Incentives (\$1,000)

Medals (\$700)

"Magic" Pencils (\$125)

Long-lasting / Test-lasting Gum (\$50) Total: \$2,775

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