



Westwood Elementary School is part of the Wellington Exempted Village School District in Wellington, Ohio. On a quest to boost their students' average



Westwood implemented McGraw Hill's K-5 SRA *Open Court Reading* program during the 2020-2021 academic year, choosing it over other programs because it was research-validated and based on the Science of Reading in five essential areas: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Kubasak emphasized that the curriculum spoke for itself and it was the "star pick" over all the other programs the school explored.

"Students learn in so many different modalities, and we needed something that had every single component mixed into the batter," Kubasak said. "*Open Court Reading* delivered on every level. It has the decodables. It has the strong routines. It has the engaging online program and the fun educational games that go with it. It has the picture cards and the sound cards. There wasn't anything that I would push to the side. And when I say we used our entire box of materials, I mean we used our entire box."

As Kubasak described, *Open Court Reading's* comprehensive approach makes this program particularly unique. The critical building blocks for lifelong literacy are established through a systematic format and instructional continuity—leveraging a scope and sequence that follows a purposeful progression of skills in three focus areas: Foundational Skills, Reading and Responding, and Language Arts.

"This program covers all the areas students need to have a strong foundation and uses a variety of activities to meet all styles of learning,"

Stone pointed out. "I especially like the Green Band (Foundational Skills) and the Red Band (Reading and Responding), as well as the story selections, vocabulary and decodables."

Yet another valued benefit of *Open Court Reading* is the dedicated curriculum consultant who provides support every step of the way. "The small group meetings with our program representative were great," Stone said. "She not only gave us feedback, she also modeled lessons for us in the classroom. That was so helpful."



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Grounded in decades of literacy research and a proven history of efficacy in the classroom, *SRA Open Court Reading* has been building strong readers, writers, and thinkers for more than 60 years.

Underpinned by findings from learning theory and cognitive science—also known as the Science of Reading—and proven to achieve reading gains in a diverse range of readers from beginning to fluent, *Open Court Reading* is research-validated as well as research-based. A carefully crafted instructional plan and a purposeful progression of skills empower

teachers and help make research actionable. By recognizing foundational skills as critical building blocks, *Open Court Reading* prepares students for a lifetime of literacy and learning.

*We understand that class performance can improve due to a number of factors, including the innate ability and prior education of the students participating, as well as differences among educators and their pedagogies. We believe that, even taking these factors into account, Open Court Reading can contribute to improvements in student outcomes.*

To learn more about our programs, visit:

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