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Grades:	K-6		African American:	1%		
Number of Students:	593		Caucasian:	97%		
Test(s):	FCAT					
Reduced Price Lunch:	47%					

Florida Elementary Students Master Reading in Preparation for Junior High

In the mid 1990s, roughly 40% of Clay Hill Elementary School students in Grades 3-6 read *below* grade level. After using SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction programs *Corrective Reading* and *Reading Mastery*, more than 72% of its students scored *at or above* grade level on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in 2005.

Clay Hill Elementary School's teachers started using *Corrective Reading* with all of the students in Grades 4-6 during the 1996-1997 school year. Initially, they taught the program for 90 minutes every day. They increased this time period to 120 minutes the following year. Meanwhile, *Reading Mastery* is still used in Grades K-3, so children can acquire basic reading skills early in their academic careers.


Principal Lenore Paulk said both programs are taught uninterrupted, which is key to the teaching process. "There are absolutely no distractions allowed during this time," she said. "That way the children know we are serious about reading success."

The FCAT was not administered prior to 1998.

Clay Hill Students Are Easy to Spot

The elementary school's principal is married to the principal of Wilkinson Junior High School, Ed Paulk.

"Five elementary schools feed into Wilkinson Junior High School, and it was incredibly disappointing to find a large number of kids reading at the Grade 2 level and not being able to function in class," he said.



Now Ed Paulk can identify Clay Hill Elementary graduates from the other students by their reading ability. “The Clay Hill kids are confident and proud of their reading ability – as they should be,” he said.

Declining Reading Intervention Needs

After using *Corrective Reading* for several years, today Clay Hill Elementary School teachers use the program only when necessary. However, they continue to use *Reading Mastery* in Grades K-3. “Strong phonics knowledge makes a strong reader,” Lenore Paulk concluded.

About Clay Hill Elementary School

Located southwest of Jacksonville and serving children in Grades K-6, this school’s student population is 97% Caucasian, 1% Hispanic, and 1% multicultural. Forty-seven percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. For more information about Clay Hill Elementary School, visit www.clay.k12.fl.us/che.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.
