

Family Literacy Learning Series: Recap of Session 2

On Thursday, May 18th, we held our second session focused on 3rd-grade through High School students, entitled, "3rd Grade and Beyond: Supporting Your Struggling Reader at Home." Our insightful panel included:

- Chanmi Chun, Sunnyvale School District Foundational Literacy Instructional Coach
- John Henry Evans, Helms Middle School School Librarian
- Molly Moloney, Assessments, Data and Compliance at Making Waves Academy
- Dr. Sabrina "Bri" Moore- Founder and Executive Director of 3Ls - Literacy, Leadership, and Liberation

Discussion Highlights

Conversation Highlights:

- Third grade is the pivotal time when students are no longer "learning to read but reading to learn," meaning they possess foundational reading skills to start reading in other subjects to learn the material and more complex academic language.
- It is the role of the school to teach children how to read, it is the role of the parents to advocate for their child, and as the child grows, to teach them how to advocate for themselves.
- If you are noticing your child is struggling with reading, don't panic! Talk to the teacher and school administration to ask for help. That can look like an acceleration or intervention plan, other supports for differentiated learning, things you can work on at home to build skills, or starting the process of getting your child an IEP (done in writing). You can always ask for assessment test scores and how your child is progressing.
- Secondary School (Middle & High School) is really about comprehension. Can students tell you what they have read and have the ability to process and analyze that information?
- "Don't pull them out of core in order to learn the code" - meaning students should still be engaged in grade-appropriate curriculum, with time built in for small groups/differentiated learning to support foundational skills.
- Audiobooks & film adaptations can be used in addition to print, to support learning/processing and spark interest.

Tips for Summer:

- Get children to read, whenever and whatever they choose based on their interests, to practice as much as possible. Motivation is a key aspect of support, it will build confidence, fuel a desire to continue practicing, and make it more joyful and interesting.
- Listen to your child to find opportunities to bring in books, articles, or other printed reading materials to support an inquiry or passion.
- Regularly get books from the library, bookstore, etc. to build excitement for and variety in reading material.
- Travel and have experiences together (museums, theatre, live music, poetry readings, cultural events, etc.) to build background knowledge.
- Summer school is a great free option to access extra support.
- Talk to teachers about what skills your child can build on over the summer, they will have insight on what to focus on.
- Make it fun! Read to them or alongside them and show an interest in what they are reading.
- Model a love of reading and make time for it regularly.
- Join your local library summer reading program to spark motivation and gamify/ incentivize reading with challenges to gain badges and win prizes.

Resources

- Milestones: [OUSD Academic Milestones](#), [Oakland Reads](#), [Understood.org](#), [WCCUSD Grade Level Standards](#)
- Access to E-books and Audio Books: Sora app (access through school/district) and the Libby app (access through your library)
- [GO Public Schools Resources one-pager](#)