

October 15, 2010 – ELA Newsletter

Instructional Timelines - All Grade Levels

*Although specific "focus" genres are posted for individual instructional timelines, students should read from a variety of genres throughout the entire school year.

* Clarification regarding bullets in instructional timelines: Bulleted notes/information in required or recommended sections of the the elementary language arts instructional timelines are reminders of components to include within the unit, rather than separate lessons.

Spelling - All Grade Levels

A spelling and word study guide has been uploaded into the "Instructional Resources" folder in the ARRC. The spelling and word study guide provides teachers with:

*an explanation of RRISD's philosophy regarding spelling instruction

*a comprehensive list of best practices in spelling and word study

*a list of professional resources related to spelling and word study that can be found within the school district

Writing Benchmark Information - Grades 3-5

Benchmarks are intended to be used in order to measure growth over time and are also an indicator of the degree to which students have mastered both the written and taught curriculum. The multiple choice section of the writing benchmark provides insight into the minimum level at which a student has mastered the knowledge and skills associated with editing, and to a smaller degree, revision. The written composition of the writing benchmark provides insight into the level at which students have mastered author's craft. The written composition is reflected in the scoring of the benchmark so that student writing progress can be more accurately measured. By scoring each of the 6+1 Traits and recording results into the answer document, teachers and administrators are able to identify trends in student writing at both the classroom and campus levels. These trends can then be used to determine how instruction can be adapted to better meet the needs of individual students. The goal of writing instruction is to produce effective writers. This shift in scoring procedures is designed to more accurately measure the degree of student writing progress.

The Word on Workshops - All Grade Levels

Many workshops are taking place this fall and spring, and several are free or offered at very low cost. Check out the "Word on Workshops" page on the Literacy Wiki for upcoming events: <https://literacy-with-lora.wikispaces.com/The+Word+on+Workshops>.

The Central Texas Writing Project

The Central Texas Writing Project at Texas State University is one of more than 200 sites of the National Writing Project across the country. Every summer, the Central Texas Writing Project sponsors an invitational institute for teachers, grades K–college, who are interested in demonstrating their classroom practices, learning from each other, and willing to facilitate inservice workshops during the school year. Institute participants will meet for 20 days at either the San Marcos campus or the Round Rock campus. Fifteen teachers will be selected at each site. Teachers are selected by an application and interview process, and once selected, they are enrolled at Texas State University's College of Education for 6 hours of graduate work at no cost to them. Read more about the Central Texas Writing Project at http://centraltexaswritingproject.org/ctwp/summer_institute.html. Applications can be accessed through the attached document or can be downloaded at http://centraltexaswritingproject.org/ctwp/summer_institute_files/SI%20Application%202011.pdf.



SI Application 2011.pdf

Have a great weekend!

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A book should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us.
--Franz Kafka