

# SRSB Curriculum Overview Balanced Literacy Program

Our Balanced Literacy program includes:

## **Word Study**

*Early Literacy Concepts:* how print works

*Phonemic Awareness and Phonics:* the relationship between spoken and written language

*Letter Knowledge:* recognizing and writing upper- and lower-case letters

*Letter/Sound Relationships* (including clusters of letters at upper levels)

*Spelling Patterns:* makes solving unknown words and multi-syllabic words more efficient

*High Frequency Words:* builds on previous years

*Word Meaning/Vocabulary:* expanding written, speaking and listening vocabulary including words with multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms and homophones.

*Word Structure:* syllables, contractions, compound words, plurals, prefixes, suffixes, possessives and abbreviations.

*Word Solving Actions:* use of a variety of strategies to solve unknown words

## **Reading**

Instruction in strategic reading to assist children in connecting with and comprehending what they read

- *Making connections:* a bridge from the new to the known
- *Questioning:* clarifying and forging ahead to make meaning
- *Visualizing and inferring:* using images and what is known to make judgments and predictions about what is to come
- *Determining importance in text:* learning to read nonfiction
- *Synthesizing:* combining new information with existing knowledge to form an original idea or interpretation.

Shared Reading

Guided Reading

Independent Reading

## **Writing**

Instruction in 6+1 Traits

- *Ideas:* the content of the piece – the heart of the message
- *Organization:* the structure of a piece
- *Voice:* the tone of the piece, lets you “hear” the writer as an individual
- *Word Choice:* effective use of a rich and varied vocabulary
- *Sentence Fluency:* the flow of the writing using varied sentence length and sentence structure
- *Conventions:* correct use of mechanics and grammar (yes, we care about spelling!)
- *Presentation:* the look of the piece (yes, we care about handwriting!)

Shared Writing

Guided Writing/Writing Workshop/Writing Process

Independent Writing

## **Speaking**

Classroom Discussions

Sharing of written work

Presentations

## **Listening**

Read Aloud(s) expose children to a variety of genre

Models fluent reading

Models use of reading strategies (listed above)

Exposure to models of 6 writing traits (listed above)

Responses to Literature

- Short and extended responses
- Use of graphic organizers (non-linguistic representations)
- Parallel tasks introduce students to the format of the standardized assessments