Aligned Collaboration: Guaranteed Success for All Children

Brady-Henderson Mill Creek Elementary School
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Rebecca Newton, First Grade Teacher
Jeff Coppes, Director of Elementary Education
Brady-Henderson Mill Creek Elementary School

- K-5 school set within a rural district in Pennsylvania
- 120 children in grades K-5
- 18 children in PA Pre K Classroom
- Staff Characteristics
  - 2006-2007-Average years of experience-20.65
  - 2007-2008-Average years of experience 12.23
- Assessments
  - Grades K-2: DIBLES, Rigby Running Records and local assessments for reading/mathematics, and Domain Writing
  - Grade 2: Terra Nova for reading and mathematics, HASD Quarterly Reading, and Domain Writing
  - Grades 3-5: PSSA, 4Sight, HASD Quarterly Reading, Domain Writing, Fountas and Pinnell Running Records
- 57.86% of the children receive free/reduced meals
- Annual operating budget of $26,254.00
- Co-Teaching: All support services take place in regular education classroom
- Response to Intervention School
- Award winning Parent-Teacher Group
Creating Consistency Through Our Literacy Frameworks

- **Reading**
  - Essential question
  - Connection between reading and writing
  - Connection to Standards and Assessment Anchors
  - Connection to comprehension strategies
  - Eligible content that will be assessed
  - Teacher resources
  - Student resources
  - Linked to approaches in balanced literacy
  - Assessments to be used

- **Writing**
  - Essential question
  - Standards
  - Craft/Revision mini-lessons and resources
  - Teacher resources
  - Benchmark assessments
  - Ideas for Writer’s Celebrations
Enhancing Skills Through Aligned Professional Development

- 182 Trainings since June 2001
- Study Groups
- Literacy Coach
- Data Analysis
- Four PD Days each year aligned to vision
- Governor’s Institutes for Early Literacy
- Summer Academies
- Professional Learning Communities
Getting New Teachers Synchronized

- Academy for Excellence
- Literacy Coach
- Mentor Teachers
- Study Groups
- Professional Learning Communities
- Differentiated Supervision
  - Required for first 3 years in district
Building the Team:
Families Mirroring Literacy Strategies at Home

2006-07
- No Parent Left Behind
- Parental Involvement DVD

2007-08
- Monthly Family Strategy Activities link to DVD
Evaluating Our Effectiveness Through Teacher-Created Quarterly Assessments

- Assess the important Assessment Anchors.
- Look very similar to the PSSA.
- The questions are phrased exactly as they will see them in the PSSA.
- Be in the same genre as studied this marking period.
- Challenge them to read and respond to both fiction and non-fiction.
- Challenge them to choose the best of four possible answers (selected response format).
- Require them to write constructed responses by effectively using BATTS or RACES.
- Allow special education students to have the exact accommodations that they have during the PSSA. Please refer to the section on accommodations in your Anchor Assessment/PSSA Notebook that we provided all third-fifth grade teachers last year.
Pulling it Together with a Standards-Based Report Card

- Standards-based
- Reflects HASD curriculum
- Includes our present assessments
- Progress is marked as “P” for proficient, “W” for working toward proficiency or “A” for students that are performing at least one year above reading level
- Hybrid format that includes percentage grades for mathematics and spelling
- Aligned to National Reading Panel
- Includes area specialists (Art, PE, Music, Library and Band)
- Characteristics of Successful Learners
- Being piloted during 2007-2008 with two families from each classroom (106 families)
Supervision Aligned to Vision for Literacy

- Differentiated Supervision
  - Collaborative Planning
  - Professional Dialogue
- Guided Reading and Writer’s Workshop Indicator Checklists
- Administrative Team Observations
- Opening our doors-making our educational practice public
Aligning Resources

- Administrative
- Classroom budgets
  - Student learning related
  - Aligned to frameworks
- Study Group books
- After-school tutoring
- Professional Development
“Solidarity describes Brady-Henderson Mill Creek Elementary School. We as teachers, parents and community members strive to provide a supportive, consistent environment for our students. We celebrate our successes and collaborate with one another to overcome our challenges-inspiration at its best!”

--Submitted by Brady Teachers
Summary Points

• Key Learning's
  – Understanding and utilizing the comprehension strategies
  – Ongoing, high-quality professional development is the key to school improvement
  – Consistency of instruction positively impacts students, families and the school

• Challenges still Ahead
  – Meeting the needs of diverse learners and moving them forward
  – Vocabulary development
  – Continued work on comprehension strategies
  – Getting new people, “Up to speed.”