



INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

900 WASHINGTON AVENUE

PROSPECT PARK, PA

MAINTAINED BY THE BOROUGHES OF GLENOLDEN, NORWOOD, PROSPECT PARK AND TINICUM

OFFICE OF Curriculum and Instruction

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As a school district, Interboro has been faced with a changing population of learners over the last several years. One of the biggest changes and ultimately, challenges, stems from our youngest population of students (K-2) truly struggling to grasp phonemic concepts. As a result, we have been faced with a growing number of students being categorized as non-readers or ones who consistently qualify for Title 1 support and/or eventual special education placement. To combat this growing literacy need, we decided to partner with IMSE and bring the Orton Gillingham (OG) approach into our schools to remediate the growing phonemic needs of our students. During the 2019-20 school year, we implemented OG into each of our kindergarten classrooms and this year, 2020-21, we introduced it in our first and second ELA classrooms.

Over the two years that Interboro has been associated with IMSE and collaborated with them to bring in the OG approach to our K-2 reading classrooms, we have begun to see a turnaround in both our students' phonemic skills and our teacher's awareness of what true phonetic instruction actually looks like. Beginning with training before the start of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years and continuing into actual instruction, IMSE has efficiently and effectively supported our teachers. They do a great job of initially building each teacher's knowledge base during training, effectively preparing them to implement OG instruction at the onset of the school year. When needed, they have also been readily available to administer follow-up training in the form of on-site (Fall 2019) or virtual coaching, to ultimately enhance teacher's instructional capacity by providing them with explicit feedback on lessons observed. Our teachers have commented that training and coaching in both the in-person and virtual settings has been highly beneficial to their growth in teaching phonemic concepts. More importantly, our students are growing! Even though our two years of collaboration with IMSE have been somewhat altered due to COVID-19, through the use of both local and OG specific assessments, we have been able to observe consistent phonemic progress from our students that was previously lacking.

Sincerely,

Eric Paterson

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Supervisor of Literacy

Interboro School District

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