

# THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL MEANS  
EACH AND EVERY

# ONE



## Thompson Teaching and Learning

### CELL / Literacy

#### Comprehensive Early Literacy Learning

Comprehensive Early Literacy Learning (CELL) is a staff model that emphasizes the importance of teaching literacy through all subjects. CELL and its extension, ExLL, provide a “big picture” framework that gives teachers tools to better understand how students think and learn. It provides intensive training and opportunities for teachers to deepen and enrich their teaching skills through expert support from the CELL Foundation as well as from on-site teachers. Our teachers work together with other educational experts to use best practices that promote student growth for a wide range of students with varied learning styles. CELL is a model for K-3 that can assist teachers with all students. Beyond CELL is ExLL for grades 3-8. CELL and ExLL provide high-quality professional development to support a comprehensive plan for school-wide change. Sarah Milner and Ivy Stockwell elementary schools are implementing the CELL approach school-wide.

In addition to CELL and ExLL, **Second Chance** (grades 6-12) continues the approach, adding reciprocal teaching, content investigation and literature discussion through groups and book clubs in reading, a writer’s workshop and test-taking strategies in writing, and a focus on explicit individual skill needs including direct instruction in word work and spelling as well as advanced word analysis.

#### Characteristics of CELL:

- ◆ Uses proven best practices from peers around the country and world
- ◆ Provides an atmosphere of understanding concepts and enhancing capability at the schools
- ◆ Extends what teachers are already doing
- ◆ Promotes consistency from class to class and grade to grade
- ◆ Involves discussions and feedback to help teachers learn, grow and share what works in the classroom
- ◆ Uses student work samples to plan instructional strategies and next steps
- ◆ Emphasizes the close monitoring of student progress to increase student growth and success
- ◆ Provides a model for incorporating essential elements of instruction through all subjects.

MATH AND LITERACY ARE THE KEYS THAT OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD AROUND US

## What takes place in the

- ◇ An ORAL LANGUAGE focus that assists students in language acquisition, develops and increases vocabulary, promotes the use of accurate language structure, and uses oral language to access reading and writing
- ◇ A focus on SKILLS that builds a foundation of skills for readers, teaches systematic phonics, and supports development of accurate spelling
- ◇ READING ALOUD, which builds vocabulary, introduces good children's literature, develops comprehension strategies, improves listening skills and more.
- ◇ SHARED READING, which promotes the development of early reading behaviors, encourages cooperative learning, focuses on text comprehension and more
- ◇ GUIDED READING, which allows observation of readers in selected novel texts, provides direct instruction of problem-solving strategies, allows for classroom intervention of reading difficulties and teaches comprehension skills
- ◇ INDEPENDENT READING, which allows students to practice skills and develop fluency using familiar texts, and encourages successful problem-solving
- ◇ INTERACTIVE WRITING AND INTERACTIVE EDITING, which provides an opportunity to jointly plan and construct text, develops letter-sound correspondence and spelling and teaches phonics
- ◇ INDEPENDENT WRITING, which encourages writing for different purposes and different audiences and fosters creativity and an ability to compose

## Keys to success of CELL:

- A strong literacy foundation paves the way for better understanding
- Continuity from grade to grade
- Monitoring of student progress
- Intensity of support through site visits and continued collaboration

For more information on CELL call 613-5075, see and [www.cell-exll.com](http://www.cell-exll.com).