



Utsalady Elementary School Supporting Students in Reading

Learning Assistance Program & Parent Involvement Policy

2019 – 2020



Utsalady Elementary Mission Statement: “Together we teach, learn, and grow.”

SCSD #401: “One Community Dedicated to the Success of Every Student.”

Washington State Common Core Standards Requirements in Reading

Reading and math instruction and assessment at Utsalady Elementary are directly linked to the Common Core Standards adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Washington State.

Literacy

- *Literature & Informational Text Standards*
- *Foundational Skills Standards*
- *In addition, the Common Core Standards include: Writing, Speaking & Listening, & Language*

How do I know if my child is performing at grade level or if they need literacy assistance?

Look for the grade-level performance expectations in the following places:

- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction website: www.k12.wa.us
- Visit the UES LAP Teacher in Room 12
- Student Progress Report Cards – Student Conferences
- MAP testing (2nd grade only) and Smarter Balance Assessment (3rd, 4th, 5th) results are shared with parents/guardians via mail and by asking the teacher.

Research Based Instruction

In planning for reading and math instruction in our school, research based findings are given high priority and woven into the instructional plan for all students. For the past 20+ years, brain research has provided important information about how children learn:

- *Students need exposure to “on grade level” material and to be provided with supplemental material at their academic level.*
- *Students benefit from early, systematic instruction in phonics.*
- *Students need to learn a variety of strategies to unlock unknown words and to accommodate their individual learning styles.*
- *Students need to learn strategies for monitoring comprehension.*
- *Students need to understand and apply procedures for addition and subtraction (later multiplication and division) of whole numbers with fluency.*

Literacy Learning at Utsalady Elementary

All students receive ongoing instruction in the meta-cognitive reading comprehension strategies. Students are assessed regularly to monitor reading and math progress.

Our reading program, called **Journeys**, exposes all students to grade level concepts and stories. Additionally, a key component of this program is that it allows for differentiation for individual students in the form of a variety of levels within the material. All students receive 90 minutes of literacy instruction with an additional 30 minutes to provide instruction for grammar, writing, & spelling. This program can support their child’s learning at home.

Along with our *Journeys Intervention* program, the following may be used for LAP students: *Get Ready for the Code* for Kindergarten, *Primary Phonics* for 1st and 2nd graders, *Read Naturally*, *REWARDS*, *READWORKS*, poetry, and Smarter Balanced release items may be used for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. *Really Great Reading* (Blast & HD Word) for all grades.

Students are expected to **read 20 minutes every day at home – with at least 5 minutes of out loud reading.**

Online support for Journeys and Math Expressions can be found at **Think Central** and accessed by both students and parents at www.thinkcentral.com Username: UES01 (ending number is grade level/K for kindergarten) Password: stanwood

You can keep informed of Stanwood-Camano School District and UES by going to www.stanwood.wednet.edu

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

The Stanwood–Camano School District receives federal and state funding to support students who need assistance in order to meet the grade level performance expectations (benchmarks) in reading for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Currently, those students in the lower 35%ile of reading testing who are not being served by an IEP in reading may qualify for Title 1/LAP Assistance. These students are served through small group instruction, given specific reading goals for learning, and their progress is monitored and reevaluated throughout the school year. If your child qualifies for this additional support, you will receive notification and updates on his/her progress through parent letters and reports that indicate how your child is progressing toward goals for learning, and how the additional LAP instruction is provided for your child.

Parent/Family Support

Volunteer Opportunities

Parent and community volunteers are always welcome at Utsalady Elementary. Volunteers are vital in help to support our students. If you are interested in helping in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher. If you are interested in listening to students read, tutoring students in math, or becoming a member of the LAP Parent Advisory Council, please contact Julie Knight (LAP Reading Coordinator) for more information. The Utsalady Booster Club (PTO) has many fun evening activities to encourage learning, promote parent involvement, and make learning fun in a warm school community environment. Be certain to check out our Utsalady Booster Club and join if you haven't already.

Family Engagement

LAP parents/guardians are given the opportunity to develop and give feedback concerning the Parent Policy and Procedures and the SCSD Compact during family informational meetings and conferences. These meeting times are determined by the annual parent survey as to all for flexible days and times. When students enter the LAP program, a copy of the Compact and Parent Policy and Procedures are sent home. Teachers are available by email and conferences on a regular basis and as requested to visit with parents/guardians about how their child is performing in the area of reading and to provide strategies to help at home. Reading fluency progress reports are sent home each semester and progress–monitoring reports, based on AIMSweb results, are shared monthly throughout the school year. Information regarding assessments, interpreting results, and how information is used to modify instruction is discussed during these conferences as well.

Stanwood–Camano Title 1 and LAP Special Events

The Stanwood–Camano Title 1 and LAP schools host Family Events to share information about what we are doing to improve your child's learning and to offer fun tips on optimizing your time with your child. Each year we have a Reading/Math Night to play games that promote reading and math skills. We also offer Parent Workshops on a variety of topics such as phonics, selecting appropriate books for your child's fluency, writing, study skills, and how to access Think Central (classroom materials that are available online).

Parent Resource Library

The Utsalady Parent Resource Library is located in LAP Room (12). There are materials, books, and games that parents are encouraged to borrow. The LAP Instructional Library is also in the LAP Room (12). These materials are for teachers to help support students in reading, math, and writing. LAP provides monthly newsletters on the school website for parents to find ideas for working on reading, writing, math, and science at home with their children. You can also find more details about Utsalady events on the monthly school newsletter and the Utsalady website.

Helping Students Succeed

The Utsalady staff is committed to helping all students become proficient readers and mathematicians. At the beginning of the school year, all students are assessed in the areas of reading and math with AIMSweb, Really Great Reading, and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. The results of these assessments along with input from the classroom teacher and Smarter Balanced Assessment results are used to determine an instructional level in reading for each student. Students who score below grade level benchmark in reading are identified and those most in need of help may qualify for supplemental assistance through the LAP tutoring.

We are extremely proud of our staff and feel certain that we are prepared to give your child a high–quality education. You have the right to request information regarding professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). This includes if the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction; if state licensing requirements have been waived for the teacher on a temporary basis; the type of college degree of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degree or certificate; and if your child is receiving Title/LAP services from teachers and/or paraprofessionals and their qualifications as well.

We welcome your questions and comments in regard to the Title 1 and LAP programs

The UES parent involvement policy is available in its entirety for review upon request. You have the right to file a written complaint if you think that there are violations of federal statute or regulations that apply to Title I, Part A programs. The procedures for filing a complaint are available from the Stanwood–Camano School District Title I/Learning Assistance Program Coordinator, who can be reached at 360–629–1250.

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