

The Vanguard School

POLICY: Vanguard IGAR – Belief Statement – Reading Program at The Vanguard School

POLICY ADOPTED: 12-13-16

Reading is of supreme importance to the accomplishment of the school mission. Reading must be phonics based, which is sound-symbol correlation. Sound symbols will be mastered and then blended to make words. Accuracy, fluency, speed, and comprehension must be emphasized at the same time as decoding skills are expanded. Academic material will be used to systematically build academic comprehension.

DIRECTION STATEMENTS

1. The program must be field tested to ensure student mastery.
2. Word memorization will be restricted to the mastery of words which do not follow the phonic rules.
3. Whole word memorization (whole language) will not be used as the foundation for reading mastery.
4. The effectiveness of the program will be documented by standardized achievement tests.
5. The text content will reinforce the phonic decoding skills at the beginning master levels. As the academic levels advance, content will become more enriched.
6. The objective of the reading program must be to teach reading skills.
7. The study of literature is distinct from the reading program.
8. Reading material will support character development and moral anchoring.
9. Every effort should be made to secure and accommodate tutoring in reading within the school schedule whenever needed.

Initial Date: April 1996

Revised: January 2016