

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: CORE PROGRAM PILOT UPDATE

12/8/2021

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(ELA/SS)

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# WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

- Programs that reflect current and confirmed research in reading and cognitive science (Science of Reading, Science of Writing)
- Alignment to the PA Core Standards
- Explicit, Sequential, Systematic, and Cumulative Instruction
- Coordinated Components
- Assessment (formative and summative)
- Professional Development



Open Court Reading

Amplify CKLA

ELEMENTARY PILOT PROGRAMS

# OPEN COURT READING

Piloting in one classroom in each grade level K-5 (Reeceville, Caln, King's Highway, East Fallowfield)

Initial training was provided in July/August.

Staff have received:

1 additional virtual coaching session

1 in-person coaching session

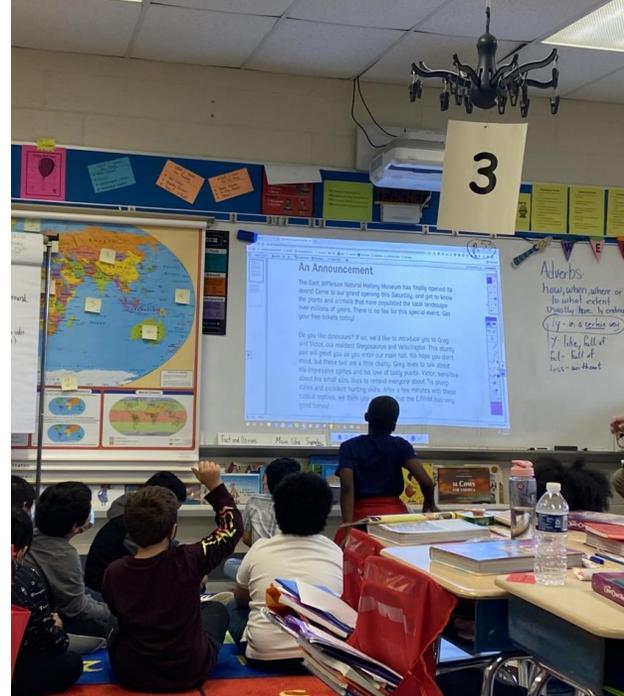
Additional coaching will be provided on 12/15.

# OPEN COURT IN ACTION

Top Right: Students in Mrs. MacCausland's kindergarten class classify nouns.

Top Left: Students in Mr. Leyden's 4th grade classroom engage in a close reading activity.

Bottom: Students in Mr. Dehaut's 5th grade classroom practice their word analysis skills.



# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT OPEN COURT...

We are so excited to teach this amazing program each day! This program starts with support for the teachers. There are on-line instructional videos for each lesson that we teach. The lessons are direct and specific and easy to follow.

Each new unit begins with a Background Builder Video. This ensures all students can have background knowledge to contribute to class discussions. All students can participate regardless of their prior knowledge or their academic levels. These units include cross-curricular opportunities in the lessons (social studies/science) as well as social skills (ex. First unit in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is “teamwork”).

The students’ attention and excitement for each lesson is evident in their class participation and class work which includes hands on activities during the lesson, quick and colorful videos that explicitly teach, workbook pages, decodable readers, anthologies, and interventions.

Each day includes the following:

**Foundational lessons** which include Phonemic Awareness, Phonics and Decoding, Guided Practice, Dictation and Spelling, Fluency with Decodable Readers (114 in 1<sup>st</sup> grade!) . **In Reading**, students are exposed to different genres in which they are summarizing, clarifying, asking and answering questions, predicting, and making connections and visualizing. **Language Arts** includes, Writing, Penmanship and Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

On top of all that the students also have access to an on-line platform that they have access to at school and at home.

**WOW! WE ARE HARD AT WORK!**

-Alyssa Lombardo (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Sheila Norton (1st grade)

# AMPLIFY CKLA

Piloting in one classroom in each grade level K-5 (Caln, King's Highway, Rainbow)

Initial training was provided in July/August.

Staff were given the opportunity to attend open enrollment virtual trainings sessions.

Staff have received:

3 virtual coaching sessions

1 in-person coaching session

Additional in-person coaching session scheduled for 1/21.



# CKLA IN ACTION

Bottom: With assistance, kindergarten students in Mrs. Schuler's class examine the interactions between characters in a folktale.

Top Left: Students in Dr. Daugherty's 4th grade class reenact a battle between the Muslim and Byzantine Armies during their Empires in the Middle Ages Unit.

Top Right: Dr. Daugherty transformed her classroom into a medieval castle to help bring the content that students were learning to life.



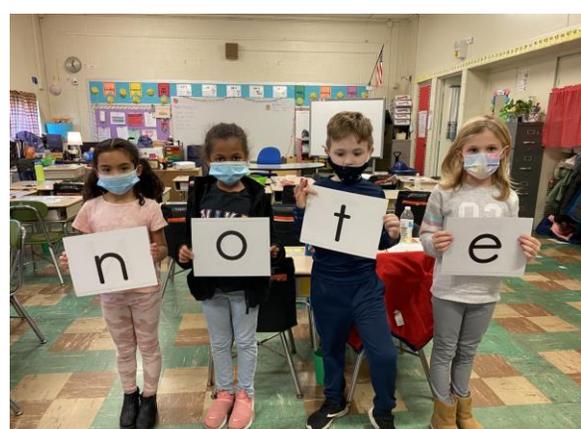
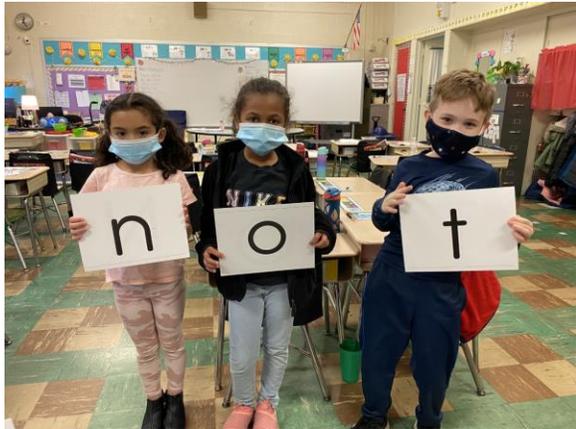
# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT CKLA...

“It has been exciting to teach CKLA because it is engaging and very challenging for my second-graders. Due to the pandemic, many of my students are working to catch up academically from time away from the traditional school setting. The skills portion of the CKLA program offers integrated phonics, reading, and workbook resources to support students in practicing their skills. It is wonderful to have access to these helpful resources.

The knowledge portion of CKLA is quite rigorous and uses the backbone of social studies topics for students to practice reading comprehension, sequencing, vocabulary, and more. My second graders have compared and contrasted Folk Tales and Fairytales. We have learned how Ancient Asian civilizations utilized the Indus River for irrigation and farming. We have also learned how Ancient Chinese civilizations thrived with their inventions of silk, bookmaking, fireworks, and more. We will explore Ancient Greek Civilizations next! I am grateful for the rich content that CKLA has to offer and my students continue to be challenged every day.”

– Meg Sebastianelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

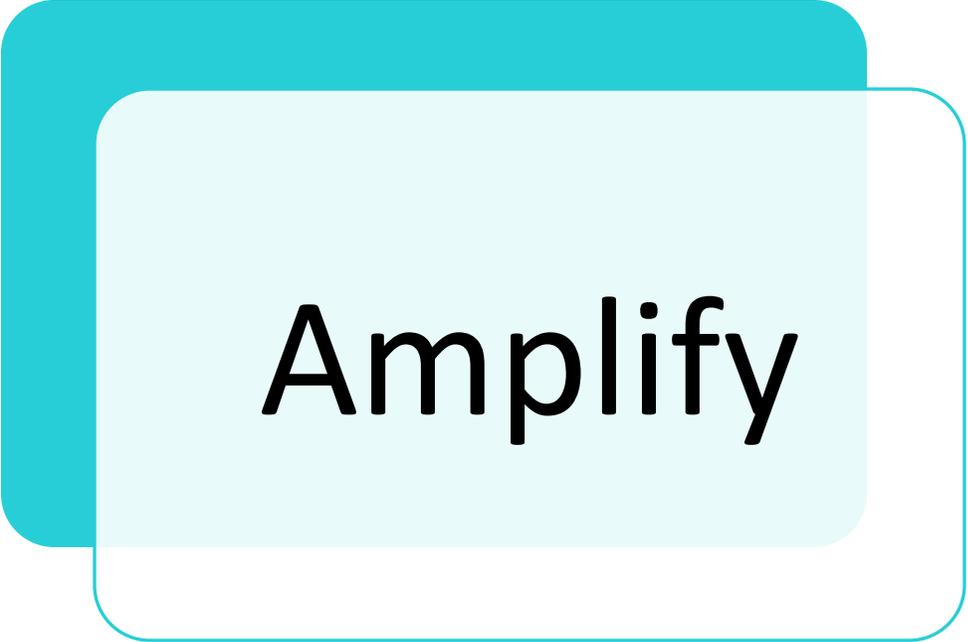
# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT CKLA...



I am grateful for the opportunity to pilot CKLA. I love the structure and the predictability of the Skills lessons. The lessons encompass phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading comprehension. The first graders enjoy the engaging activities such as Pop-out Chaining in which the students hold large letter cards and build words as a class. Pop-out chaining allows for extra practice segmenting words. (photos included)

The Knowledge lessons build a shared core knowledge for our class. We started the year listening to Fables and Folktales and learned the moral of each. We are learning about the human body. Each day we think of a fun fact or two to share our knowledge with our families. One fact we shared was: Did you know the smallest bone is in the ear and it is the size of a grain of rice? Some of the facts our families fact check using Alexa!

-Lisa Gatano-Swisher, 1st grade

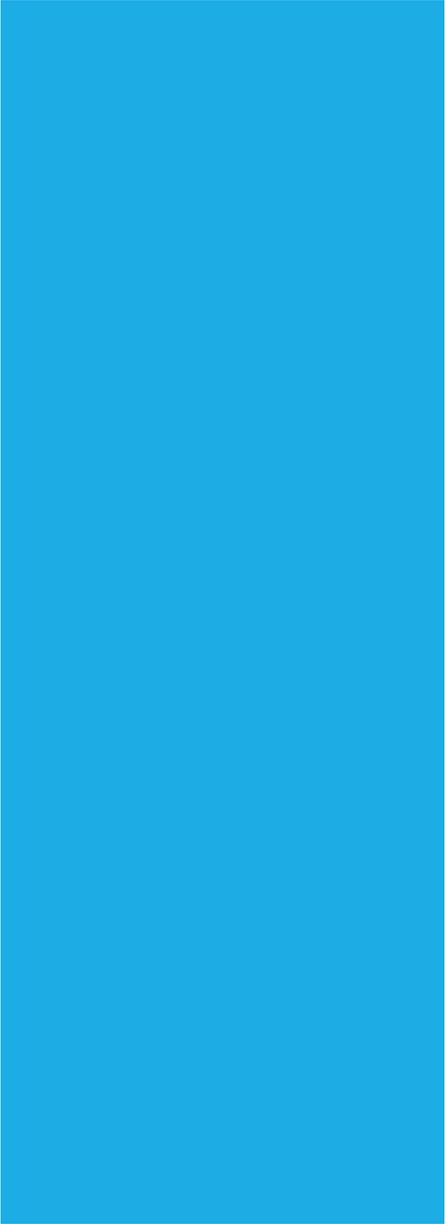
The logo for Amplify, featuring a teal rounded square with a white rounded rectangle inside, containing the word "Amplify" in black text.

**Amplify**

The logo for Wit & Wisdom, featuring a teal rounded square with a white rounded rectangle inside, containing the text "Wit & Wisdom" in black text.

**Wit &  
Wisdom**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAMS**



# AMPLIFY

Piloting in two classrooms in each grade level 6-7.

Initial training was provided in August.

Staff were given the opportunity to attend open enrollment virtual trainings sessions.

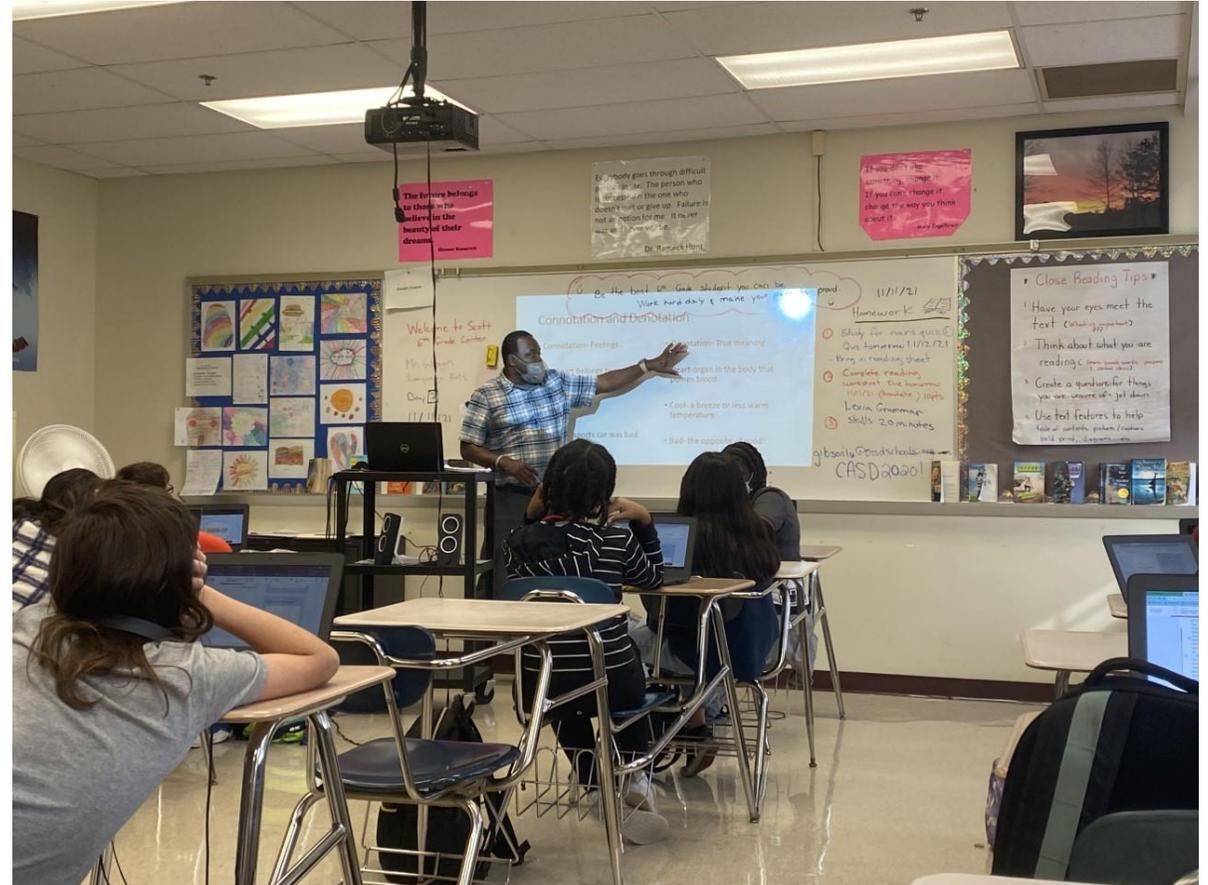
Staff have received:

1 virtual coaching session

1 in-person coaching session

# AMPLIFY IN ACTION

After completing a close read of Mrs. Pratchett's revenge, students in Mr. Gibson's 6th grade ELA class discuss the difference between a connotation (feelings/emotions) and a denotation (true meaning).



# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT AMPLIFY...

"This year, I am piloting an ELA program called Amplify. Amplify is a web-based program which students access through their Chromebooks. We have completed one unit and currently in our second unit of study. The first unit centered around narrative writing. Students studied Roald Dahl's author craft moves and used his techniques in their own pieces.

In our new unit, students have transformed into medical investigators and are searching for the cause of yellow fever. Students read and respond to nonfiction passages often working with a partner. At the end of class, students respond to a prompt of the day. Students are required to include a claim, text evidence, and an explanation.

I like that Amplify is a comprehensive program that includes vocabulary, grammar, reading, speaking and listening, and writing. Each lesson is based around at least one common core standard. Teachers can pick and choose when they want to incorporate grammar and vocabulary instruction into their lessons. I also love that Amplify can be differentiated based on individual student needs. Amplify allows the teachers to move students into six levels to receive additional support as well challenge students who are above grade level."

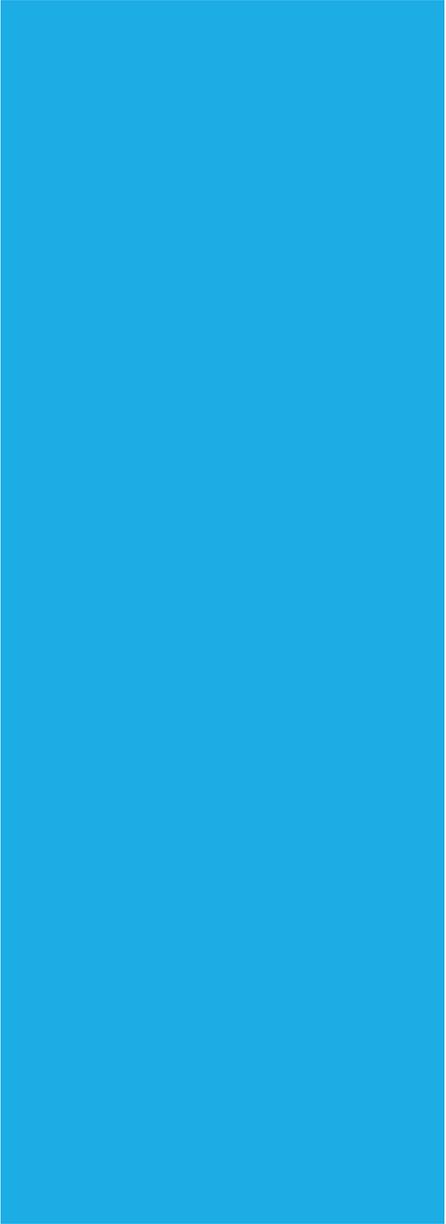
-Lauren Bird, 6th Grade ELA Teacher

# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT AMPLIFY...

"Amplify is a fully digital curriculum that includes all areas of ELA: Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Vocabulary. It is culturally diverse, and the literary pieces are engaging the students. The curriculum builds skills slowly but surely. As the students move along in a lesson, they may write a claim and/or find evidence, and the work they do appears on the screen at the time they are ready to put a piece of writing together. It is extremely well-conceived and uses best-practice techniques for all areas of reading and writing.

All work is evidence-based, and there is a reading comprehension and writing component for every lesson. All classwork and assessments are modeled after PSSA-type questions. Assessments have provided an honest view of student ability. I have been seriously impressed with the students' writing! The quality is above and beyond what I have seen in the past for all levels. The students themselves are thrilled with what they have produced! There is a paper and pencil back-up component to the curriculum."

-Patrice Seeker, 7th Grade ELA



# WIT & WISDOM

Piloting in two classrooms in each grade level 6-7.

Initial training was provided in August.

Staff have received:

2 virtual coaching sessions

# WIT & WISDOM IN ACTION

Students in Ms. Holdsworth's 6th grade ELA class examine a famous photograph (Kentucky Flood) to help build background knowledge about living conditions in the Great Depression. Students are reading *Bud, Not Buddy*, which takes place during this time period.



# WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WIT & WISDOM...

“We love the integrated approach to teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. It has been amazing to see all students accessing grade appropriate texts. Our students are building knowledge around a wide range of topics, acquiring new vocabulary, and are improving in their ability analyze a variety of texts. We have seen noticeable improvement in our students’ critical thinking skills by diving deep with character and plot development through whole class novel studies. Students are reading closely, drawing inferences from text, and citing textual evidence to support conclusions. The content is rigorous. Our students have benefitted from the challenge.”

–John Auberzinsky & Sean Noonan, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

# TIMELINE FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION AND SELECTION

December-January 2022: Audit of Pilot Programs (Alignment to PA Core Standards/Alignment to the Science of Reading), Administration of Winter Benchmark Assessments, Increase exposure beyond pilot group

February 2022: Analysis of Winter Benchmark Data, Program Selection, Recommendation Presented to the Board

March 2022-May 2022: Train staff on selected program(s), Completion of Curriculum Framework Documents (K-7), Development of Scope and Sequence Documents (K-7), Development of Pacing Guides (K-7)

June 2022: Update Course Selection Guide, Revise K-5 Standards-Based Report Card

August 2022: Provide staff additional training on selected program(s)