

RESPONSE TO READING

• *V-H ELEMENTARY SEES RESULTS FROM READING PROGRAM*

The Viborg-Hurley School District is in its second year of implementation of a RtI (Response to Intervention) program.

Initially, the program was geared towards K-2 students and incorporated instructional strategies from the district's Reading Recovery program. The second half of last year the district expanded the program to include 3rd and 4th grade students.

Students receive 30 minutes a day of individualized reading instruction in small group settings. The incorporation of the RtI program has resulted in positive gains in the district's DIBELS and DRA data.

Teachers who work with the students meet regularly to discuss each student's individual levels and adjust instruction to assist students in the process of developing reading skills.

"The collaboration between teachers has allowed us to come up with a uniformed reading menu of interventions for teachers to use in meeting students reading needs," Reading Integrationist Michelle Schoenefeld said.

"It really feels like a team in meeting students instructional needs."

Because of the RtI programs initial success, the district decided to expand it this year by utilizing a Reading Plus program.

The Reading Plus program is geared towards grades 3-8. Students are not only reading, but learning about topics that are individualized to each student's interests. The program

tracks areas students may have difficulty with and generates additional lessons for teachers to incorporate into individualized lessons at different times of the day.

"The Reading Plus program has given our middle school educators reading data that is allowing more individualized instruction to take place in those grades." Middle School Principal Amy Brandriet said.

Viborg-Hurley rewards students for their hard work.

The elementary has implemented a monthly reading incentive that rewards students for reading at home with parents. K-2 students need to read or be read to for 15 minutes a day and 3rd and 4th 20 minutes.

Each month, they offer different rewards for students to earn if they had enough days marked on the calendars at the end of the month. Students in grades K-2 have leveled reading books sent home with the students. The books are individualized to the student's reading levels that are also tracked.

Through the hard work of the students and parents, the school saw reading levels improve throughout the year and students enjoyed events like sock snowball fights, putting a pie in a teacher's face or drawing a mustache on a teacher or principal.

"The incentives have been helpful for me as a parent to get my own child to read at home," Superintendent Rob Syliaasen said.

