



Supporting Our Students' Success

**Committee on Learning
February 2024**



*Ensuring Coherent Programming through Collaboration,
Communication and Careful Planning*

Guiding Our Work

Tonight's conversation emphasizes the district's priorities:

- Student Support
- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Future-Focused Programming

Tonight's Topics

For Approval:

- Curriculum
- Course Proposal

For Your Information:

- SMS Course Selection
- Science of Reading Update



Curriculum Approval

Ensuring High Quality Curriculum

- Advanced Chorus
- AP Government
- AP Psychology
- Criminal Justice
- Intro to Business
- K-5 Health (by grade band)
- Russian Studies Honors

Course Proposals



Curriculum Proposals

- Basic Life Support in CPR/AED/First Aid
- Concert Chorus
- Exercise Physiology
- Explorations in Science
- French IV/V CP
- Nutrition and Wellness
- PE Boot Camp

Middle School Course Selection

Life's about choices...

In the past...

- Students had limited choice.
- Had to choose Computer Technology or Computer Science
- Had to take Chorus, Band, Orchestra, or General Music (grades 6 & 7)
- PLTW was required (grades 7 & 8)

This year...

- We're collecting information about student preferences.
- Students are "selecting" electives and designating alternates.
- Health & PE continue to be required for all students.

Why the change?

Allowing students to share their preferences...

- Promotes decision making
- Allows students an opportunity to use their voice
- Allows for more personalized scheduling of UA courses
 - Some students have limited slots available for UAs.
 - Example: Student A receives Special Education Services. She is enrolled in Learning Strategies, must take PE and Health, and also plays the trumpet. These things fill 7 or the 8 available UA slots for the academic year.
- Will allow us to look at whole school data to determine what courses students prefer. This will help inform potential additions in the future.

What are the available options?

6th Grade

Art 6
Band
Chorus
Orchestra
General Music 6
STEM 6
Computer Science 1
Intro to Digital Media

7th Grade

Art 7
Band
Chorus
Orchestra
General Music 7
STEM 6
PLTW 7
Computer Science 1
Computer Science 2
Intro to Digital Media

8th Grade

Art 8
Band
Chorus
Orchestra
STEM 6
PLTW 8
Computer Science 1
Computer Science 2
Intro to Digital Media



Science of Reading Update



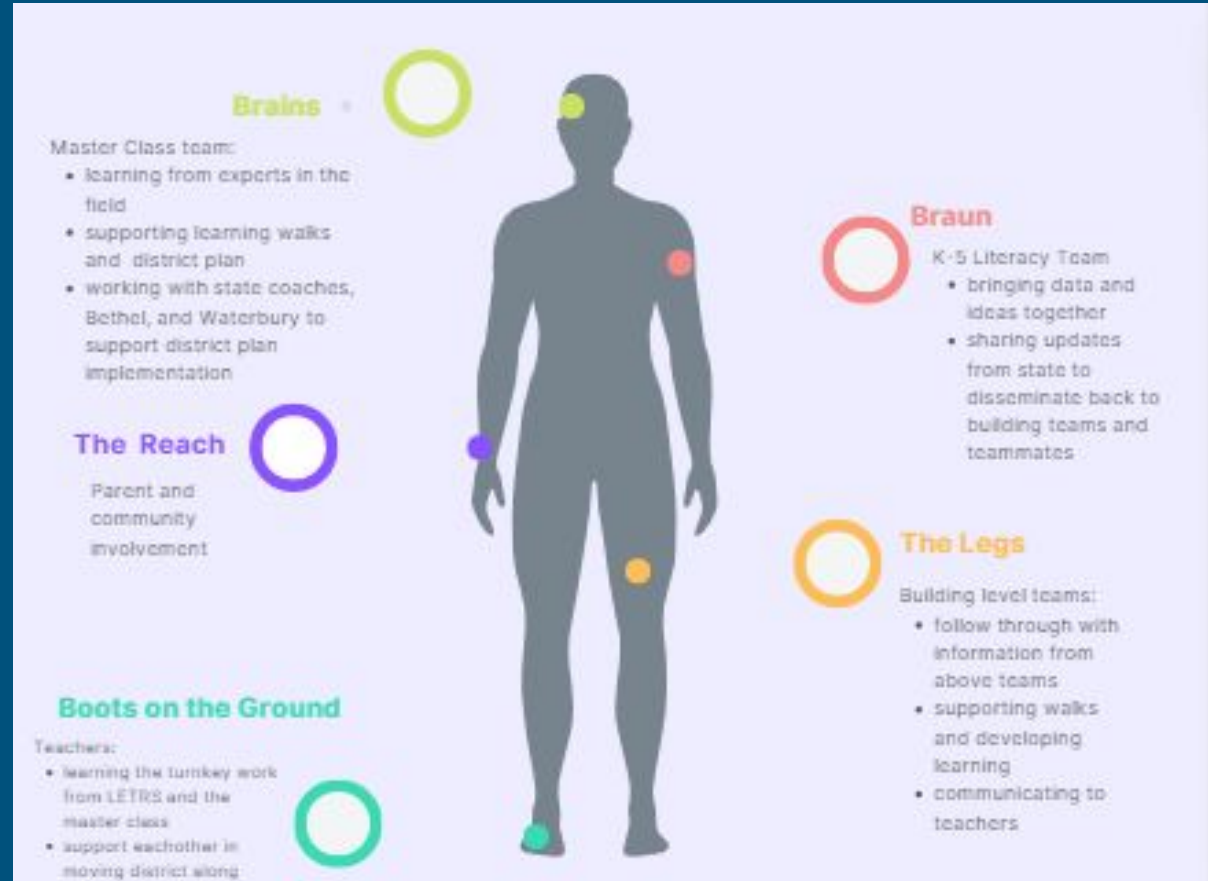
District Literacy Plan Year 2

- Continued: focus on developing systems of leadership to support teachers and the learning of SOR to support instructional practice.
- Steps include:
 - Quality of instruction in each tier
 - Accountability and follow through
 - Decrease in students in MTSS
 - Communication plan internally and in the community
 - Timeline for Professional Development and Learning Walks
 - Data teamwork to improve problems of practice



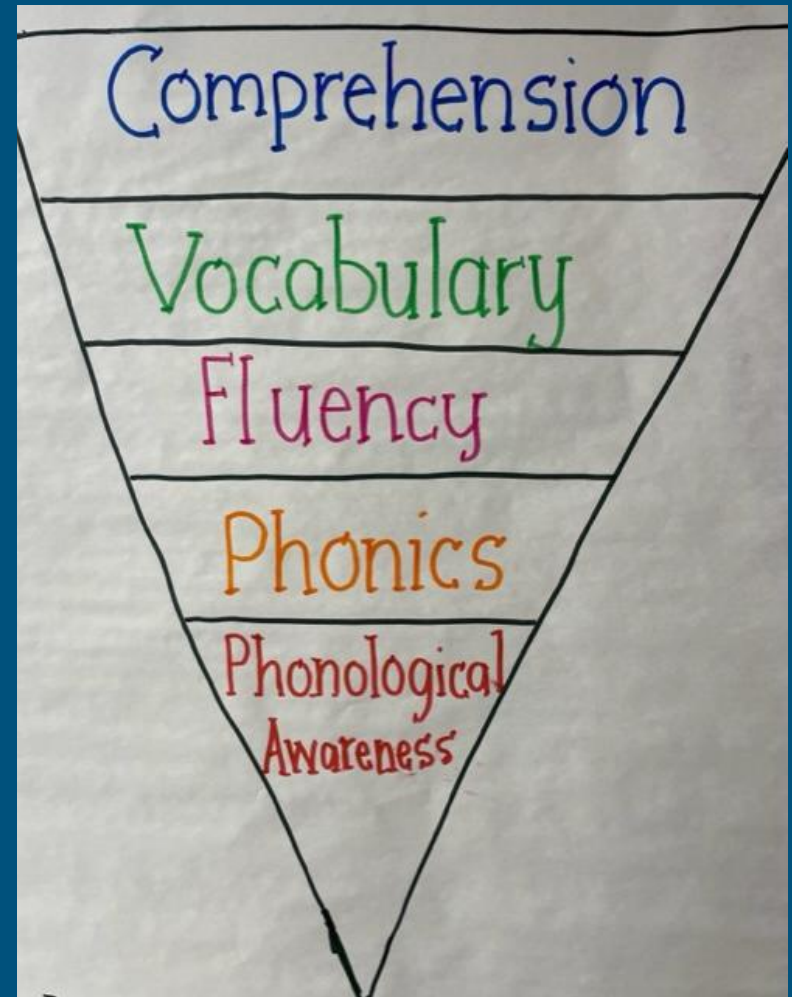
Communication

- Multilayered team system for dissemination of information
- Teacher website
- Community outreach and events

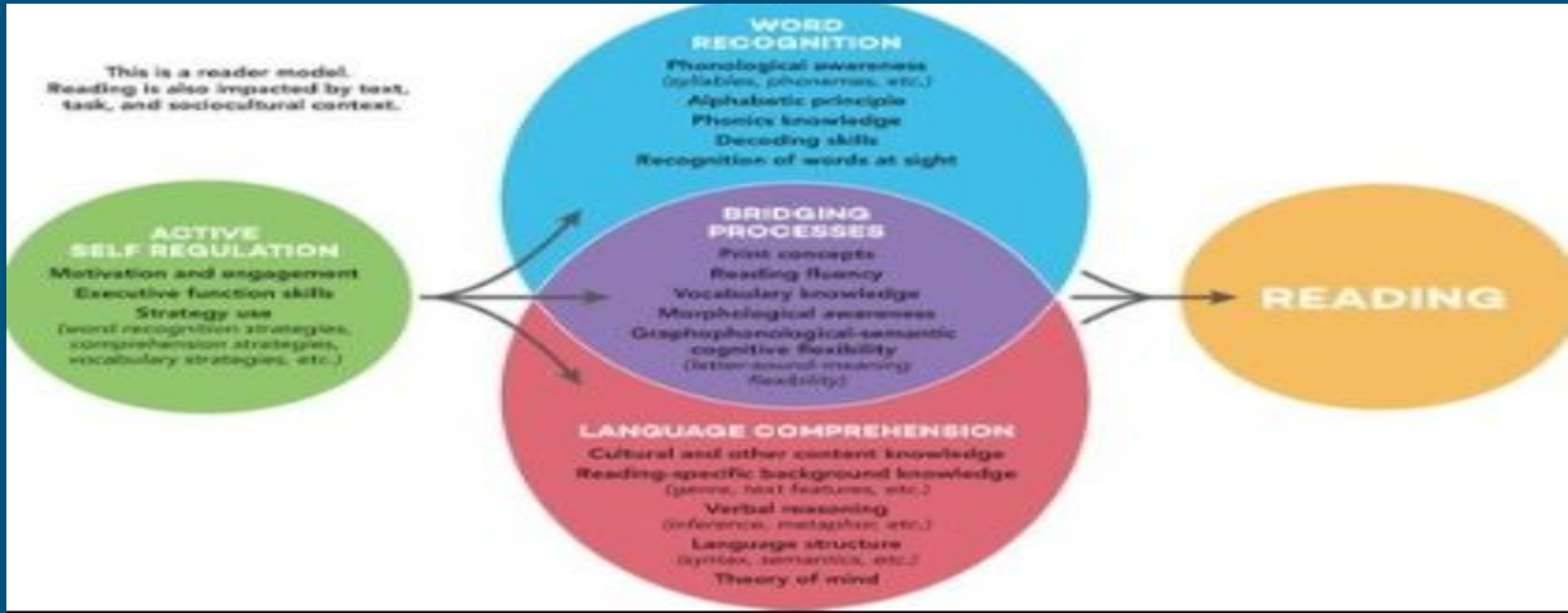


Where are we now?

- Winter data shows huge growth
- MTSS is becoming more seamless due to better teaching, assessments, and data collection
- Teachers are slowly adding to their repertoire of skills, building on the literacy barometer, moving from phonics to fluency and vocabulary



Supporting the Way Students Learn to Read



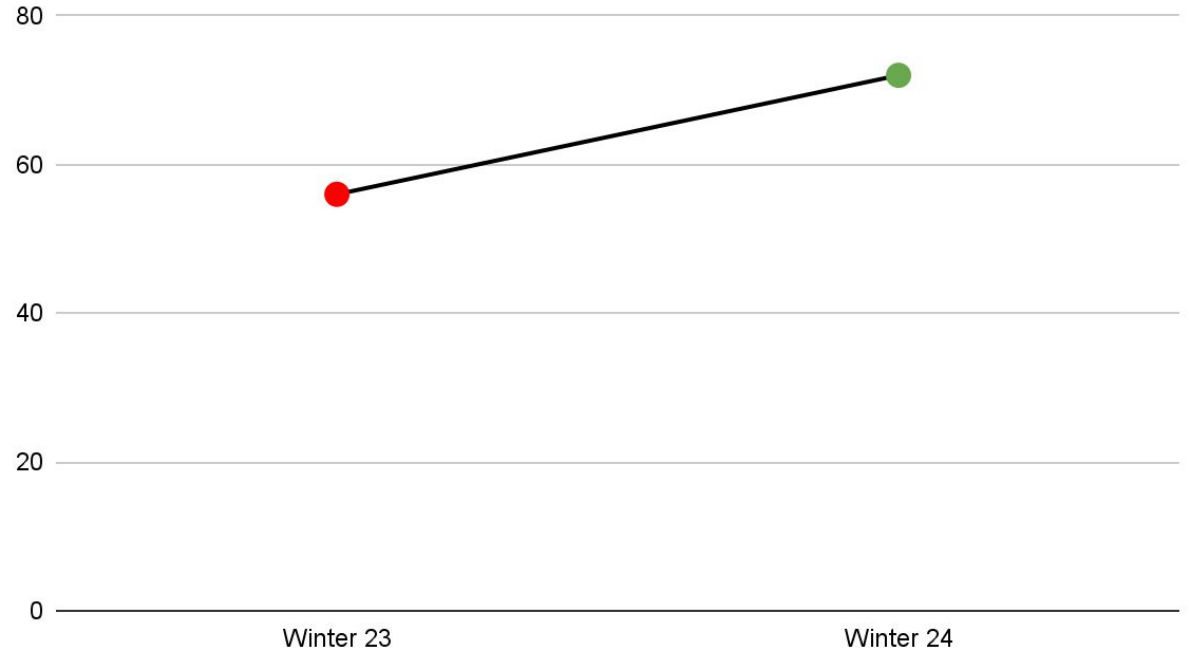
Where are we going?

- Our thoughtful and thorough work will continue as planned.
- Phonics and phonemic awareness will continue to use the UFLI and Heggerty materials.
- New Milford Units of Study as a program will need further revision to ensure best practices for comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency.
- Teachers will use data to inform small group instruction
- Classrooms have become a space where we are learning with and from each other.

Teaching Success!

Grade 1 cohort
moved from
56% at
midyear
typical growth
to now at 72%

Percentage of Students Hitting Midyear Typical Growth 1st Grade Cohort



3rd Grade Cohort

Phonological Awareness (PA)

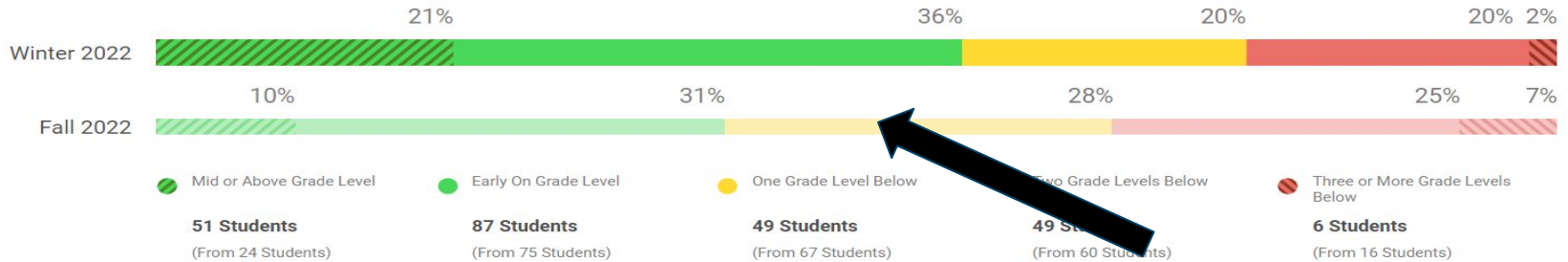
2023

Phonics (PH)

Phonological Awareness (PA)

2024

Phonics (PH)



Current Events

- Celebrations of growth in each school
- Continued learning

LET'S GLOW READ A BOOK!

a family literacy night theme

- March 21st



Questions

