

Motivating the Middle: Reaching Struggling Middle School Readers



Technology that works for our students:

www.edmodo.com- a social learning environment for classrooms to share ideas and assignments

docs.google.com – free web-based word processor where you can collaboratively create, share, and store online
Microsoft movie maker-create and share movies (Windows XP needed)

www.onetruemedia.com- free site to create and share video creations

www.skype.com- talk free face-to-face with anyone else on skype- wherever they are – voice and/or video (internet and web cam needed)

Resources that motivate our students:

Plugged In series- (www.pluggedintoreading.org)

literacy program for middle and high school students – audio books scaffold instruction – fiction and nonfiction titles available

SCOBRE books (www.scobre.com)- free sample online- high interest books each title written on two reading levels for proficient and struggling readers.
Builds vocabulary, entices readers- fiction and non-fiction titles available.

Graphic novels- narrative works of literature conveyed in comic format

MP3 – portable digital media player that can store, organize, and play audio files

Playaways- (www.playaway.com) (www.recordedbooks.com)
digital content preloaded on portable audio player

Contact Information:

Heather Mochulski, Reading Specialist & **Beth McKee, Reading Specialist**
mochulskih@coatesville.k12.pa.us mckee@coatesville.k12.pa.us

Thanks for joining us! We have created an Edmodo community to continue today's discussion. Here you can also find today's power point. Please use this as a site where ideas can be shared and questions posed. Just log onto www.edmodo.com - click "student", complete the sign up page (enter group code ns1xz6) then post your note. Let's keep the conversation going so that motivation can grow!

MOTIVATING THE MIDDLE:

**REACHING STRUGGLING
MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS**

Beth McKee and Heather Mochulski
Title I Reading Specialists
Coatesville Area School District

**What We Teach and
Why It Can Be Difficult?**

- We teach a class called: "Reading Proficiency"
- Students not Proficient or Advanced on PSSA can not take a world language and must take our class.
- Some do not need to be in this class, but most do.
- Many of our students are already frustrated, unmotivated, or have just given up.
- No grades are given out- this was our choice.

**What About Our Program Works?
What Is Motivating Our Students?**

- Knowledge about themselves as readers!!
- Technology
- Audio-supported text
- Self-selected, Engaging text
- Real life experiences

Knowledge About Themselves As Readers

- ☐ From Day 1, we collect data from the current year and past years
 - Performance Tracker
 - Title I Criterion Testing
- ☐ Student Conferences are held to share:
 - Strengths and weaknesses
 - What their scores are and what they may mean
 - What will help them improve- setting realistic goals
- ☐ We begin keeping records that our students will monitor all year.

Technology

- ☐ Classrooms today are full of DIGITAL NATIVES led by DIGITAL IMMIGRANTS.
- ☐ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
 - Major increases in the use of entertainment media such as cell phones, iPods, computers, and television in 8 -18 year olds.
 - 7 hours 38 minutes a day
 - BUT, because most multitask, they are actually consuming 10 hours 45 minutes worth of media!!

Are We Engaging Our Digital Learners?



Vision of K-12 Students Today

- ☐ Grown Up Digital by Don Tapscott
- ☐ \$4 million study on this Net Generation
- ☐ What works? Learning must be:
 - Interactive
 - Discovery-based
 - Collaborative
 - Customized
 - Student-Centered

How Do We Engage Our Students With Technology?

- ☐ Edmodo
- ☐ One True Media and Powerpoint
- ☐ Movie Maker
- ☐ Digital Story Telling
- ☐ Skype
- ☐ Google Docs

Share your ideas and thoughts!

How Do We Engage Our Students With Audio Supported Books?

- ☐ Self-Selected Material
- ☐ Exposure to several grade levels above reading level
- ☐ Increases
 - Fluency- "Eyes past print with fluent voice support"
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Vocabulary- Exposure to more sophisticated vocabulary
 - Motivation

We use:

Playaways, MP3 players, iPods, and audio centers.
Plugged Into Reading/Nonfiction –Dr. Janet Allen

Share your ideas and thoughts!

How Do We Engage Our Students With Self-Selected, Engaging Text?

- ☐ Our goal is to increase time spent reading
- ☐ We require students to have a book at all times
- ☐ We hold reading conferences to
 - Help guide book selection
 - Set reading goals
 - Discuss the book
- ☐ Must find ways to get students to read!

We use:

High Interest Nonfiction such as Oh Yuck,
Graphic Novels
High/Low books such as Scobre books

Share your ideas and thoughts!

How Do We Engage Students With Real Life Experiences?

- ☐ We always try to make learning relevant

We use:

Author visits and Dinners

Book store visits

Celebration of readers-limo

poetry slams

Authentic projects- Destiny Quest

Attend local community events

Share your ideas and thoughts!



How Can You Be a Motivating Force in Your School?

- ☐ Be a Positive Voice
- ☐ Advocate for Twenty-First Century Skills and Technology with Professional Development.
- ☐ Learn the Technology with Your Child- you may be surprised!
- ☐ Encourage your local library to have young adult audio-supported text available.

Product Giveaways!!

Thank you to Recorded Books for their generous donation of the Playaway and Audiobooks.

Name _____

Reading Assessment Tracking Sheet

PSSA:

3rd grade _____

4th grade _____

5th grade _____

6th grade _____

7th grade _____

4Sight :

date _____ score _____

date _____ score _____

date _____ score _____

MAP:

date _____ score _____ lexile score _____

date _____ score _____ lexile score _____

date _____ score _____ lexile score _____

Fluency:

date _____ WPM

date _____ WPM

date _____ WPM

date _____ WPM

date _____ WPM

date _____ WPM

