

Proposal for a Secondary Reading Course for Struggling Readers

Rationale:

• **Educational Research**

1. The Matthew Effect (Stanovich, 1984)
2. Vocabulary Gap (Blachowicz et al., 2011)
3. Literacy neglected at the HS level (Biancarosa & Snow, 2006)
4. Difficulty of texts at the HS level (Biancarosa & Snow, 2006)
5. National Graduation Rate 70% (Wise, 2009)
6. College preparedness in question (Wise, 2009)
7. Increasing literacy needs—21st century & global community (Cassidy et al, 2010)
8. 70% of HS students need remediation in reading (Biancarosa & Snow, 2006)

• **FVHS**

1. Mission Statement: "...success is the only option."
2. Graduation Goal: 90% of students meet graduation requirements by 2012 (81% in 2010)
3. Implementation of School Improvement Plan Literacy Goal for 2012-2013
4. Previous use of A or R did not produce adequate gains—short or long term
5. Literacy instruction embedded in English classes
6. 21st century skills, expectations, and global community

Proposal:

• **Structure**

1. Semester long course
2. Class size capped at 10 students
3. Begin with SLD reading students
4. Promote positive learning environment
5. Create cooperative learning
6. Develop metacognitive skills — applicable across all content areas
7. Progress monitoring by students and teacher

"Literacy is, in reality, the **cornerstone** of student achievement, for any student in any grade."- Bob Wise, 2009.

• **Instruction:** *Differentiated, Multi-faceted, Individualized, Data driven*

1. Decoding/Word Recognition
2. Fluency
3. Vocabulary
4. Comprehension
5. Writing

• **Resources**

1. Research, WCPSS literacy coaches, Colleagues, Internet resources
2. Hi-Lo Texts, Magazines, Graphic Novels
3. Diverse texts: interests, levels, cultures — student choice
4. Some programs offer comprehensive packages — further research & funding needed
5. Narrative/nonnarrative — Common Core