



Howdy, HES Families!

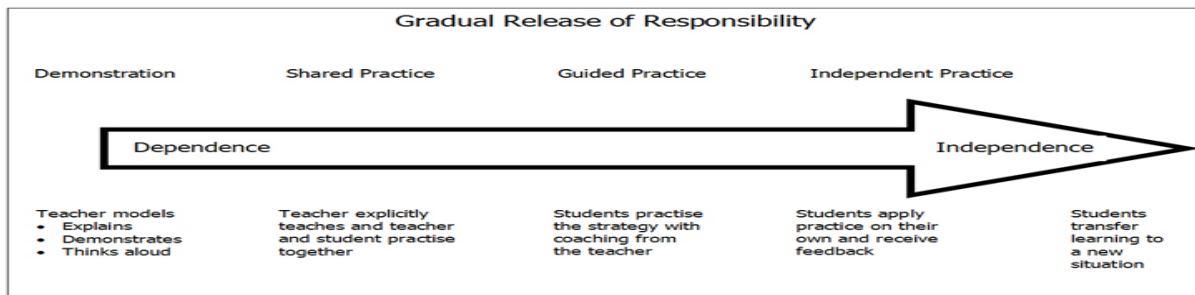
As you can see, we are opening the school year with a Western RODEO theme. At the end of the 2010-2011 school year, I talked with the staff about the importance of connecting to their teaching “roots” and remembering all of the things that made/make teaching and learning so much fun. We opened this year with the same conversation. Together, I want us to make a point to focus on the JOY that is referred to in our school’s vision statement.

This year will be about bringing JOY to life in our school while focusing on our goal of transitioning from being a state recognized *School of Distinction* to becoming a state recognized *Honor School of Excellence* (and Equity). Not only do I know we can accomplish this, I know it can best be achieved through JOYFUL teaching and learning.

We will continue to focus on Reading Workshop (see below) as an “equalizer” for student achievement. This does not mean that we will ignore other content areas, but simply means that Reading Workshop will continue to be emphasized in our professional development and in our classrooms throughout the year. This is a data driven decision that will assist us with achieving our collective goal of “heading West.”

You can help us reach our goal by emphasizing to your child/children the importance of *reading to learn*. Do everything you can to make reading JOYFUL. Read with and to your child and let your child see you reading a variety of materials (newspapers, books, magazines, road signs, menus, etc.).

## What is Reading Workshop?



**K-2 Reading Workshop**  
**60 –90 Minutes**  
**Minilesson**

✦ Literacy Workstations, Shared Reading, Guided/Small Group Reading, Independent Reading  
**Group Share**

**3-5 Reading Workshop**  
**60 Minutes**  
**Minilesson**

✦ Independent Reading, Guided/Small Group Reading, Literature Study  
**Group Share**

**Literacy Workstations:** An area in the classroom where students use instructional materials to practice reading, writing, listening and working with letters and words.

**Shared Reading:** Using an enlarged text that all children can see, the teacher involves children in reading together following a pointer.

**Guided Reading:** The teacher works with small, temporary groups of students who are at about the same reading ability. The teacher supports children reading the whole text to themselves making teaching points during and after the reading.

**Independent Reading:** Children read on their own or with partners from books at their independent reading level.

**Literature Study:** Students engage in in-depth discussion about a text they have read or heard. The students take turns facilitating the discussion.