

## K-12 Math Continues to be District Focus

*By Dr. Riddle & Dr. Hornak*

Math remains a focus for Holt Public Schools this year as we implement a new math curriculum at grades K-5 (*Go Math!*), engage in a second year study of *CMP3* for grades 6-8, and continue to build a K-12 mathematics continuum for our students. As we work to improve, all administrators, academic coaches, and some teachers have been studying two texts related to increasing all students' mathematical thinking, stamina, and achievement. We will improve and must analyze the strengths and limitations of our current methods of engagement as well as our explicit and inquiry-based instruction.

Dr. Riddle and the coaching team led K-12 mathematics professional learning community meetings on December 11, 2015 and February 9, 2016. These meetings were designed to build a collective understanding of our data,

the need to improve, and the need to create a common understanding of what our students should look like and sound like when they have achieved proficiency on five specific math standards. This group of educators will continue to meet throughout the year to work towards these goals.



*Several leaders from across the district met twice for a K-12 math professional learning community led by Dr. Riddle and District Transformational Coaches. Math remains a district K-12 focus!*

### Inside this issue:

K-12 Math Continues to be District Focus	1
K-2 Reading Street Gets an Upgrade	2
K-6 Health Update—A look at Next Year	2
Instructional Tips and Tech Troubleshooting	2
More Intervention Options Coming for Grades K-12	3
The County Shifts to Fast Bridge Math & Literacy Screeners Over the Next 2 Years	3
A Note from the Dr. Riddle—We are in This Together	4

## K-2 Reading Street Gets an Upgrade

By Dr. Riddle & Tammy Shorna

Five years ago, the 2011 edition of Pearson's *Reading Street* was adopted in grades K, 1, & 2. This research-based program is the core foundation of our District's literacy instruction.

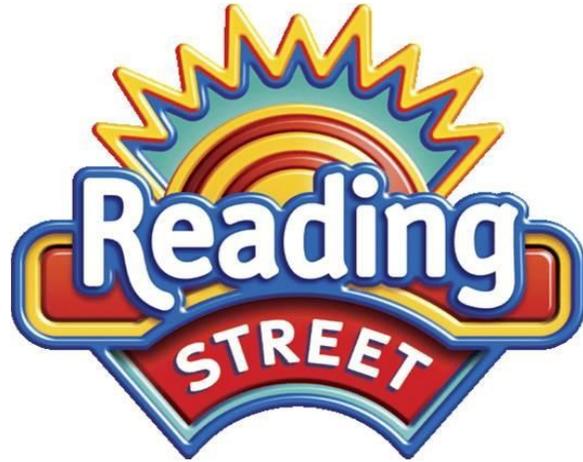
Holt Public Schools has now purchased enhanced *Reading Street* materials that are aligned to CCSS and provide the rigor necessary to build a foundation toward college and career expectations.

The following materials are included in this upgrade: *Writing to Sources*, *Common Core 101*, *Reading Street Sleuth*, and *Realize Digital Path*.

Fortunately, second grade teachers from Horizon and Sycamore participated in a pilot of these materials last spring; we have resident experts in Holt.

Embedded in this transition of materials is a plan for professional development opportunities for teachers.

[Reading Street FAQ](#)



## K-6 Health Update—A Look at Next Year

By Dr. Riddle

During the 2014-2015 school year, a K-12 health committee and K-6 subcommittee representative of grade levels and buildings met several times to begin addressing our health curriculum. The groups are evaluating coverage, consistency, and coherency in the health curriculum; professional development; and what is currently being taught across the district K-8. The district decided to use *Michigan Model* as our curriculum resources for grades K-6 and *The*

*Wonder Years* at the 5-6 level as the reproductive health component. We also determined that the newly purchased *Second Step* would be used as Tier 2 intervention support.

Implementation of these decisions and training for all K-6 staff were scheduled to occur during the

2015-2016 school year, but were postponed due to the late summer adoption of K-5 *Go Math!* and time and capacity constraints. The plan is to provide this training during the 2016-2017 Opening Week. Materials are provided with the training, and I am seeking to secure Wendy Sellers to provide this training as originally planned.

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## Instructional Tips and Tech Troubleshooting

By Joe Cleary & Teresa Asch

### Tips for Scanning in Illuminate Education

While we have worked through many of the issues related to scanning with Illuminate Education, a few issues persist around the district. When we troubleshoot these scanning issues, the fix is usually related to one or more of three issues:

1. All scanning must be done using the Internet Explorer browser. As a general rule we usually say use Chrome...except when scanning in Illuminate.

2. If a computer does not yet have the GradeCam plugin, the plugin will need to be installed. This is a two-step process. First the technology department needs to add the software to a specific computer, and then the software has to be installed directly using the Microsoft System Center. This is usually a task that is done by a building technology leader.



3. If issues still persist, we have found that it is often related to a defective cable. Confirm that a USB cable has been connected between the document camera and the computer. Many of our persistent scanning issues have been resolved through a change in cables.

Once you have successfully set up your camera for scanning, here are some scanning quick tips to consider: <http://help-dna.illuminateed.com/m/4830/1/57908-scanning-quick-tips>

# More Reading Intervention Options Coming for Holt Students

By Dr. Riddle & Amanda Lantz

The Curriculum Office recently upgraded K-2 Reading Street and invested in a 5-6 reading pilot planned for 2016-2017. We were able to negotiate 120 iLit (*inspireLiteracy*) licenses to be included with the upgrade and pilot. These iLit licenses will allow us to provide K-12 reading intervention support.

iLit is a comprehensive digital reading intervention designed to deliver two grade levels of reading growth in a single year. iLit combines summarization and essay writing activities, and can be used for both instruction and assessment. iLit gives students immediate, targeted feedback to help them develop the reading, comprehension, and writing skills that

are critical for academic success.

iLit is designed specifically for struggling readers and unengaged learners in grades 4-10. It includes resources necessary to support Tier 2 and Tier 3 students: curriculum, personalized study plans, adaptive assessment, data, and professional development.

iLit features 1000+ high-interest books, available on both teacher and student TabLit interfaces. Students can look up the meaning of any word in the text, translate it into 11 different languages, and access a “visual definition” of the word.

As we begin to implement the iLit program, we plan to focus licenses and

resources at grades 7-12. There will be some licenses allocated to grades 4-6. As we learn more about how this program supports our students, we will continue to evaluate how it might best be used.



[iLit FAQ](#)

# The County Shifts to FastBridge Math and Literacy Screeners in 2016-17

By Dr. Riddle

Holt Public Schools, along with the rest of the county, will be shifting from the use of AIMSweb screeners to FastBridge Screeners. In Holt, grades 5-8 will migrate in 2016-2017 and grades K-4 will transition in 2017-2018.

FastBridge includes literacy and math Curriculum Based Measures (more measure options than AIMSweb for screening and progress monitoring) as well as computer adaptive assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. It will also allow students and teachers a single sign-in through Illuminate Ed.

Whereas AIMSweb has been stagnant with regards to the continual development of the tools in response to district needs, FastBridge is on a continual development cycle. One example would be the development of screening tools that support grades 5-8 as well as having adaptive capabilities for common assessments K-12.

Several meetings are already being planned to support this shift. Coach Amanda Lantz, Dr. Riddle and all

principals met with Kelly Trout at IISD in January and February to set the tone for our work in Holt.

Holt's Screening Committee will meet throughout the 2016-2017 school year to plan for replicating the process used to implement AIMSweb.

During initial implementation, we are considering choosing FastBridge screeners to match the information we currently collect through AIMSweb screeners at each grade level.

Coach Amanda Lantz and Dr. Riddle will be meeting with 5-8 principals in the spring and plan PD for all grade 5-8 teachers who will use the new screening tool.

Some training will occur prior to the end of this school year and there will be either building or grade level PD for all teachers in grades 5-8 during Opening PD week.

We are still working through the logistics, but wanted to provide you with

*“Several meetings are already being planned to support this shift.”*

a preliminary scope.

Similar to AIMSweb, FastBridge offers criterion-referenced scores, commonly called Benchmark Scores, for each academic measure. These “cut scores” are the criteria by which a student's earned score is categorized.

The three categories are: Low Risk, Some Risk, or High Risk. Benchmarks are designed to predict student performance at or about the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile (some risk) on nationally normed assessments and state tests and 15<sup>th</sup> percentile for high risk.

You are welcome to log in to the demo site and play around as much as you like.

The login information is:

**Login:** fast\_demo

**password:** fast\_demo

**URL:** <https://www.fastforteachers.org/login.do>

[FastBridge FAQ](#)





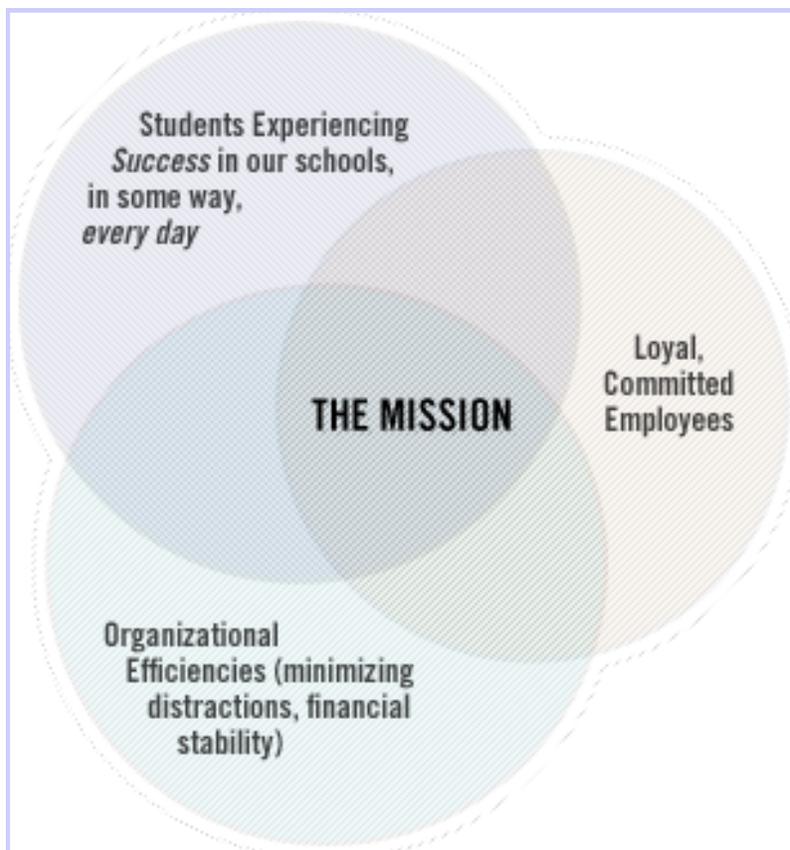
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## A Note from Dr. Riddle: Through the Change, We are in This Together!



I know that we are in the midst of a lot of new things, including state assessments, online assessments, curriculum adoptions, new state standards, and a K-12 district math focus. We have all seen the district's curriculum priorities as well as your building's areas of focus. I know that it is

a lot and can feel daunting. We all know that the one constant thing in education seems to be change.

As we work to provide our students with an excellent educational experience, we have to do so in ever-changing times where targets are constantly moving. What I love about teachers and administrators in Holt Public Schools is the passion, expertise and commitment to our students as well as our continued learning and professional growth.

In many ways, change is good because knowledge is always advancing. And we learn more effective ways of teaching, learning, and leading. We pride ourselves on being cutting

edge and innovative. As we incorporate the work communicated in this newsletter, know that we are in this together. Plans are being developed and revised that will support your work at each step.

In central office, we are constantly working collaboratively to structurally support your work. We do this by:

1. Working to stay a step ahead of staff and buildings related to research, policies, and practices as they look at outcomes with a large lens.
2. Working beside staff and buildings – it is a reciprocal relationship.
3. Stepping behind staff and buildings to watch, listen, and understand what our front line is learning, thinking, doing – and implications for district policies and practices.

These three critical steps are vital to providing the right structures and supports as we all work together daily to make Holt Public Schools the choice and premiere district in our county.

It is an honor to serve among an amazing group of educators and human beings. Thank you for all that you do.