



St. Peter School News

Panther Pride

August 2011

*Elevating Faith,
Educating Children,
Enriching Communities*



Superkids Reading Program



St. Peter School's PreK and Kindergarten had adopted the SuperKids Reading Program a year ago and since we have seen the success of this reading program we decided to add Grades 1 and 2 this upcoming school year. Superkids Reading Program is a core reading program designed for Kindergarten through Grade 2 that looks like no other and works like no other, with a cast of characters that children love. Based on a proven pedagogy and compelling brain research, it combines rigor and fun to deliver on its promise: Every child will learn to read.

The Superkids program provides a clear sequential path of instruction that leads to reading mastery while it simultaneously teaches students to write and spell. It is a powerful and engaging combination of rigor and fun.

Here's Why It Works

1. Superkids provides the right reading instruction at the right time. No program in the market today teaches children to read more effectively than Superkids does. With Superkids, children are fluent, automatic readers by the time they leave second grade.
2. Extensive reading research has overwhelmingly validated the importance of Superkids' systematic, phonics-based instruction for the primary grades (K—2). Phonics should not be taught as a stand-alone subject area or added on to another program.
3. The Superkids Reading Program is a comprehensive reading and language arts curriculum with phonics at its core. As Superkids builds strong phonics and decoding skills, it simultaneously integrates instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. The program also develops students' skill in writing, spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics. As a result, Superkids produces students who can read and spell accurately and fluently, readers who can comprehend an author's ideas, and writers who can express their own ideas with confidence and precision.
4. Superkids is an efficient, cost-effective reading program. Because reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and handwriting are seamlessly integrated, teachers have everything they need with no extra materials or planning required.
5. Superkids is easy to teach and understand. Superkids has a clear instructional path that allows teachers to communicate key concepts and reinforce key skills throughout each grade level.

Inquiry Based Instruction

The teaching staff at St. Peter School attended training for Inquiry Based Instruction in Social Studies and Science in August.

An old adage states: "Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."

The last part of this statement is at the heart of inquiry learning.

Inquiry Learning:

- teaches problem-solving, critical thinking skills, and disciplinary content
- promotes the transfer of concepts to new problem questions
- teaches students how to learn and builds self-directed learning skills
- develops student ownership of their inquiry and enhances student interest in the subject matter



Perhaps a good way to summarize the important difference between traditional learning and inquiry learning is: Traditional learning focuses more on LEARNING ABOUT THINGS, while inquiry learning focuses more on LEARNING THINGS! Another useful way to contrast the two might be: Thinking WHAT as opposed to thinking HOW.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will have experience this year with Inquiry-Based Instruction.



Save the Dates: *September 8-11—Girls' Volleyball Tournament, Grades 5 and 6*
September 11—Parish Picnic
September 15-18—Girl's Volleyball Tournament, Grades 7 and 8