

Exceptional Student Performance Title 1 Distinguished School for 2013-2014

Virgil I. Bailey Elementary in Lake Station Community Schools District

As a high achieving, school-wide Title I school, Virgil I. Bailey is a proven educational success story, showing thirteen years of student-centered success. Serving a low-socioeconomic population comprised of an increasingly changing student population, (380 enrolled K-6; 79% poverty; 37.6% Latino, 5.5% African-American, 2.6% multiracial, and 53.7% Caucasian), Bailey's success is attributed to ongoing teacher collaboration, instruction driven by data analysis, test talks with every student, and regular support staff meetings to adjust small group instruction. Bailey's ISTEP+ passing rates increased since the focus began in 2002 when Bailey was in school improvement for failure to make adequate yearly progress. The focus began looking at and studying research –based best practices for impoverished schools. Both formal and informal assessments are ongoing and guide the teachers in planning and evaluating instruction.

Bailey implements the 8-Step model which focuses on creating standards based Instructional Calendars for grades one through six and a 30 minute success time which remediates, maintains, and enriches our students. Professional development on 6+1 Writing Traits has been provided for teachers. Strong professional development helps teachers understand and use instructional practices to foster student achievement. Principals and a Literacy Coach provide coaching and support to establish clear goals and expectations for student learning and professional development for our staff. Reading instruction occurs during a 90-minute reading time which includes whole group, small group, and individual instruction. A 30-minute intervention time is scheduled daily for benchmark, strategic, and intensive students as identified by progress monitoring assessments. Students identified are also provided additional Tier III instruction.

Bailey utilizes Scholastic Reading Counts to track and promote independent reading and places students at functional reading levels; Compass Learning provides simple to use, but highly effective measurement tools to ensure that our teachers know how each student is achieving in Math and Reading; the Aleks (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) Program provides one-on-one virtual web-based instruction to assess a student's course of knowledge of math for high ability students in addition to their regular curriculum. Learn 360 is provided to support teacher instruction in the classroom using short videos on varied subjects for those difficult concepts. Bailey has an after-school program to support ESL parents to teach them English in order that they may better support their children academically at home. Students and former students, that are now working in our community and are successful contributors to our society are recognized for their accomplishments bi-monthly in our student of the month celebrations. Bailey also partners with the community by sharing information with businesses and parents in our "school community advisory meetings" which are held to discuss school data and ways to help improve student learning.

Bailey's success can be attributed to a strong focus on:

- instruction
- classroom, building, and district goals
- community partnerships to support success and high expectations
- and "What's best for students."

Virgil I. Bailey has never been recognized as a Distinguished Title 1 school and we are excited that our hard work and dedication by staff, teachers, students, and community are providing us this opportunity.