



Elder Creek Elementary School

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June 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

During the past four years Elder Creek teachers and administration have had the pleasure of using the "The Write Tools" writing program written by Alice Greiner. For the '04-'05 school year our school failed to meet the No Child Left Behind requirements, consequently we became a Program Improvement School—Year I. After looking closely at our standardized test data, we knew our students' lowest scores were in writing which meant we would have to focus in this area to improve our students' academic success. That is when we decided to use "The Write Tools" program.

Elder Creek is a Title I school with approximately 700 K-6 students. Seventy per cent of those students are English Language Learners (ELL). We knew that if our students, especially our ELL students, could learn the "The Write Tools" writing process it would increase their ability to deconstruct reading materials.

We knew that to ensure consistency, accuracy and implementation though out all grade levels that professional development and coaching were crucial, thus we embarked on a four-year journey. Our commitment to the program paid off. We are no longer a "Program Improvement" School and our Annual Performance Index (API) soared. The state had set a goal of five points a year but Elder Creek students performed even higher. During the '06-'07 school year our students' scores increased by 24 points and increased another 34 points for the '07-'08 school year. Because our scores were so impressive, other schools came to our site for classroom observations and to ask questions about our success. We were invited to present at our district's "Equity Fair" and at a state conference where we received the "Shining Star" award for our accomplishments.

Thank you, Alice and "The Write Tools" for providing the tools that we needed to produce successful students and teachers. We look forward to continued successes with the program. It is with high accolades that I would recommend using "The Write Tools" writing program to anyone who wants to increase student achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary DeSplinter".

Mary DeSplinter
Principal