

STAR CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMBER NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

Rhonda Mullikin, Superintendent

Dear Alice,

As principal of Star City Middle School, I want you to know that The Write Tools and your trainers have been the best thing for my school, my faculty and my students.

We began our journey with The Write Tools after another administrator spoke positively about The Write Tools training she had provided to teachers in Rogers, Arkansas. I compared The Write Tools with Reading Next and Writing Next research before securing our first training with you.

I began by providing modules to my literacy teachers with a number of modeling and coaching visits. After seeing such positive results with those teachers, I decided to offer the Active Reading Module training for all of my staff. This workshop was followed by model lessons. Your trainer, Barb Hermanson, and I met some resistance from a few of my content area teachers. I urged them to utilize some strategies in their classrooms and before I knew it they were sold on The Write Tools.

I have watched these teachers transform into very confident teachers of writing. They saw their students able to highlight and use 2-column notes on their own which resulted in higher student achievement on classroom assessments. We knew these strategies would assist our students in their state assessments when reading text and looking for supporting details for their answers---and it did.

This fall we started the year with our Write Tools trainer assisting us with an alignment piece, the newest modules, and most recently teaching my content teachers about text structure. We are in the process of securing Barb for five additional days to continue her work with literacy and content teachers. She has been such an asset to my staff and my literacy coach. She is a perfect match with my school. The teachers respect her and she respects them. She listens and responds to their needs in a very reassuring, non-threatening way. We look forward to continued support and growth through the use of The Write Tools and our wonderful trainer.

As far as our test scores, we are moving in the right direction. We were in year three of school improvement, but made adequately yearly progress this year. Of course, we must do it again this coming year to be removed from the school improvement list. We feel confident that we will accomplish this with our continued focus. A few years ago, writing and constructed response were our weakest areas in literacy, but those are now a strength for us.

My staff, my students, and I look forward to future gains using The Write Tools. Please encourage any principals considering The Write Tools to contact me for more information.

Susan White

Susan White, Principal
Star City Middle School