S. E. P.

Skills Enhancement Program
Necessity is the mother of all inventions.

Anonymous Substitute Teacher
S. E. P. Addresses Critical Academic Needs

- Reading
- Writing
- Time Management
- Organizational Skills
- Study Skills
- Added benefit of increased self-esteem
Program begins with first three sessions devoted to:

- V.A.R.K. testing
- Distribute/explain dated planner
- S.R.A. reading level assessment
- Study skills, time management, and organizational skills training (booklet)
- How to read/study their Social Studies textbook
V.A.R.K. Testing

**Visual - Aural - Reading - Kinesthetic**

- Helps boys and their teachers understand how they learn best.
- Helps identify strategies for the intake of information.
- Helps identify strategies for how to best prepare for assessments.
S.R.A. Reading Level Assessment

- Boys answer 40 short to moderate length reading passages that measure their understanding and ability to infer from clues in passage.

- Number correct determine what level they will start in the program.
Study Skills, Time Management, and Organizational Skills

- Boys are given the booklet *10 Steps To Great Grades*.
- After previewing, boys read two sections a week.
- Reading reviewed during one on one time.
How to Read Textbooks

• Look at all pictures and read captions.
• Read all section headings and any questions at the end of the section.
• Read the chapter review questions at the end of chapter.
• Boys are now ready to go back to the beginning of the chapter and begin reading.
It’s Time!!!!

By the third or fourth session, the boys are ready to begin their normal S.E.P. routine when they arrive each time.

The entire hour is self-directed and divided into 15 minute segments spent at 4 different stations.

Each time they arrive, they hand in their planner to be reviewed by me.
Station 1  SRA Reading

• Boys arrive, pull level card they are working on, and begin to read.
• They place their answers on the score sheet
• Boys check their answers against correct answers.
• Wrong answers are noted and score recorded.
• Wrong answers are checked by me before next session to look for reasons why and patterns.
Questions kids ask about fish and sea life

What is an octopus?
Which fish carry their own lights?
How do jellyfish sting?
What is a pearl?
How do fish breathe?
Can starfish swim?
How dangerous are piranhas?
Are sponges plants or animals?

SRA Reading

Tyler Roland - SRA

350 - Did not quite grasp underlying meaning. No lack of text (Mead's commentary steps) through graphs.
350 - Missed reference of solon being a hard worker.
360 - Missed reference of solon being a hard worker.
360 - Missed reference of solon being a hard worker.
370 - Missed clue. "You may come to..." on test (need to D) Bridge.
370 - Missed reference. Build my story. Couldn’t do the "of-the."
Station 2  Writing

- Boys arrive here and select a book
- Read one of the short stories
- Close book
- Date and title paper
- Write as many details as they can remember w/o opening the book.
- Details written as complete sentences, punctuation, spelling, and handwriting are important.

The first motocycle race was the Jack Pine.

It was established in 1923.

The cow bell was used to start the race. The cow bell was rung at the start of the race, and gave it to the winner.

The game that was like war was Chess.

It is over 500 years old.

We think the monks started it.

This is the oldest game we have.
Writing Continued

By January, boys begin to organize their writing.

Think about what they read.

What can they talk about the most?

Write a topic sentence that covers it.

Support with details from the story.

Again, mechanics and sentence structure are important.

3/2/11

How did the frisbee get its name?

When Walter Fredrick Morrison invented a toy disk that was called the flying saucer, they were already playing there game. The flying saucer was beside the game because at Yale they had something like it. At Yale the had a pie shop, it was called the frisbee pie shop. Yale students would buy pies from the frisbee pie shop. They would eat the pie the frisbee. When Walter Fredrick Morrison visited Yale he saw all these people throwing tiny pie trays and saying frisbee. And that is how the frisbee got its name.

3/2/11

What is a sea cucumber?
Sequencing

- Basket of #’d envelopes, each containing a comic strip cut into its individual panels.
- Each envelope has the name of the comic strip and number of panels on the front.
- Panels are laid out and boy tries to place panels in correct order using dialogue and panel scenes as clues.
- Helps boys understand the importance of sequence in their writing as well as being a fun mental challenge.
Station 4  - One on One Conference

- Each boy sits with me for about 12-15 minutes.
- I review his dated planner for thoroughness.
- We talk about any recent test scores.
- We talk about any problems, social or academic, they may be having.
- Review previous week’s reading errors.
- Check their cubby for neatness.
Parental Contact

• Parents are given a copy of V.A.R.K. learning preferences along with strategies to study and prepare for assessments.

• Parents kept in the loop throughout the program via regular e-mails or notes home on how their son is doing.
Down The Stretch They Come

- Boys continue their routine through the remainder of the year.
- Near the end of the program, boys re-test in reading.
- Boys are also asked to submit a final writing sample. Topic is writing about a memorable moment in their life.
Program Resources

Dated Planner: Design Type 750D

Success by Design, 1-800-327-0057, www.successbydesign.com

Study Skills, Time Management, Organization: www.woodburnpress.com

10 Steps To Great Success, Woodburn Press, P.O. Box 329, Dayton, Ohio USA 45409

Learning Preferences:

V.A.R.K. www.vark-learn.com

Reading Material:

SRA Reading For Understanding www.mheonline.com USA

www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk UK, Northern/Central Europe, South Africa

Writing Materials:

Questions Kids Ask, by Grolier Limited www.amazon.com

Help for Vocabulary, LinguiSystems, Inc. www.linguisystems.com

Sequence Materials:

Sunday Comics in the newspaper
Personal Contact Information

Joseph M. Lignore
The Haverford School, 450 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041 USA
610-642-3020 ext. 1239
jlignore@haverford.org