

Reading Intervention

Kindergarten through 6th Grade

☀️ The 5 Pillars of Reading ☀️ Building Strong, Confident Readers – Together!

Aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and the Science of Reading, these five pillars provide the foundation for every child to become a confident, lifelong reader. Each pillar builds on the last, guiding children from hearing sounds to understanding and enjoying complex text. Mason City Schools uses this framework to streamline reading intervention, ensuring that every student receives consistent, research-based support to grow as a reader.

👂 1. Phonological Awareness

Hearing and manipulating the sounds in spoken language before reading print. Students practice rhymes (cat-hat-bat), syllables (win-dow), onsets & rimes (c-at), and phonemes (dog → /d/ /o/ /g/).

🏠 Play rhyming games, clap out syllables, and segment words into individual sounds to make reading fun and interactive.



📖 2. Phonics

Connecting letters to sounds. Students learn that letters (graphemes) represent sounds (phonemes), helping them decode (read) and encode (spell) words. Practice includes matching letters to words (m → moon) and blending sounds (/s/ /a/ /t/ → sat).

🏠 Spot letters in books or signs, practice blending letters, and celebrate each new word your child reads independently.

🚀 3. Fluency

Reading accurately, quickly, and with expression so children can focus on understanding meaning. Students practice repeated reading and echo reading, building confidence and smoothness.

🏠 Take turns reading aloud, model expression, and cheer each improvement to make reading lively and engaging.

💬 4. Vocabulary

Knowing and using words to unlock meaning in texts. Students expand vocabulary through books, conversation, and learning across subjects, which supports comprehension and communication.

🏠 Discuss new words, encourage using them in sentences, and explore words in everyday life to make language exciting.

💡 5. Comprehension

Understanding, thinking about, and connecting with what is read. Students answer questions, summarize, make predictions, discuss characters/events, and relate text to their own experiences.

🏠 Ask open-ended questions about stories, talk about favorite parts, and encourage thinking about lessons or messages.



Together, We Build Readers for Life

With these five pillars, Mason City Schools helps children develop the skills to read confidently, think critically, and enjoy reading. Families are essential partners in celebrating growth and fostering a lifelong love of reading!

Gifted Services

Grades 1-6

Students who are identified as gifted in superior cognitive thinking are served based on the intensity of their cognitive needs here at MCS. Our service goals may include:

FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING...

Students will explore new ideas, think creatively, and take smart risks as they learn. They'll practice being flexible thinkers who can see things from different points of view and share their own original ideas with confidence.



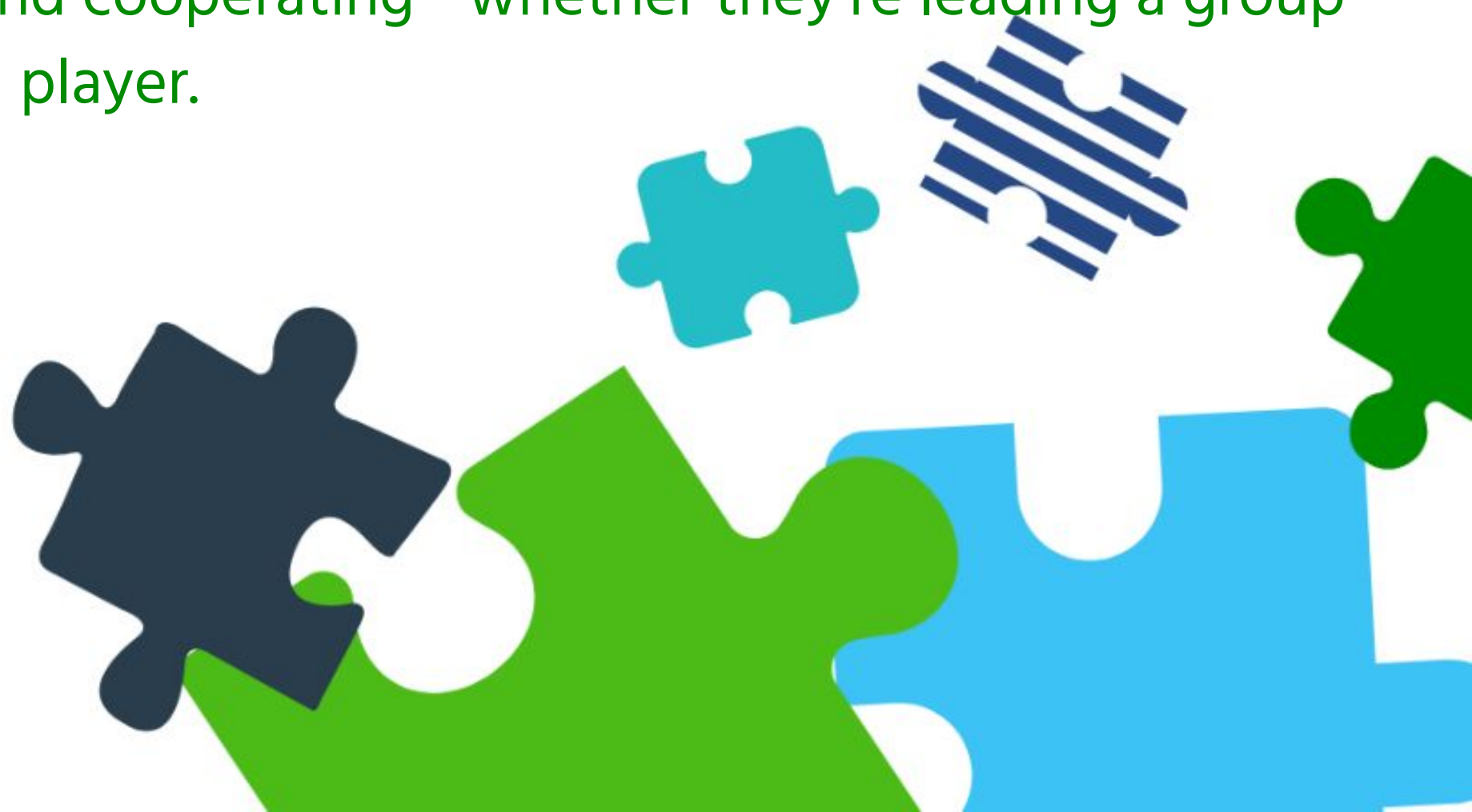
GROWING CRITICAL THINKING...

Students will strengthen their critical thinking skills by analyzing information, making connections, and finding solutions to challenging problems.



BUILDING POSITIVE INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS and SELF-CONCEPT...

Students will learn to recognize their own strengths and use them to build confidence and take positive risks as gifted learners. They'll also practice working together—communicating, collaborating, and cooperating—whether they're leading a group or being a team player.



Gifted Services Grades 7-8

Mason Middle School provides service options for students who are identified as gifted in math, reading, science, social studies and cognitive ability. Gifted identified students in seventh and eighth grade may potentially be served through the following *self-selected* academic enrichment options:

Introduction to Algebra (Gr 7), Algebra 1 (Gr 7 or 8), Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry; Speak Up, Write Now; Engineering Design; Coding and Robotics STEM Lab; Mason in the Middle; Explorations in Historical Research; Advanced Journalism; Project Citizen; STEM; Physical Science (Grade 8).



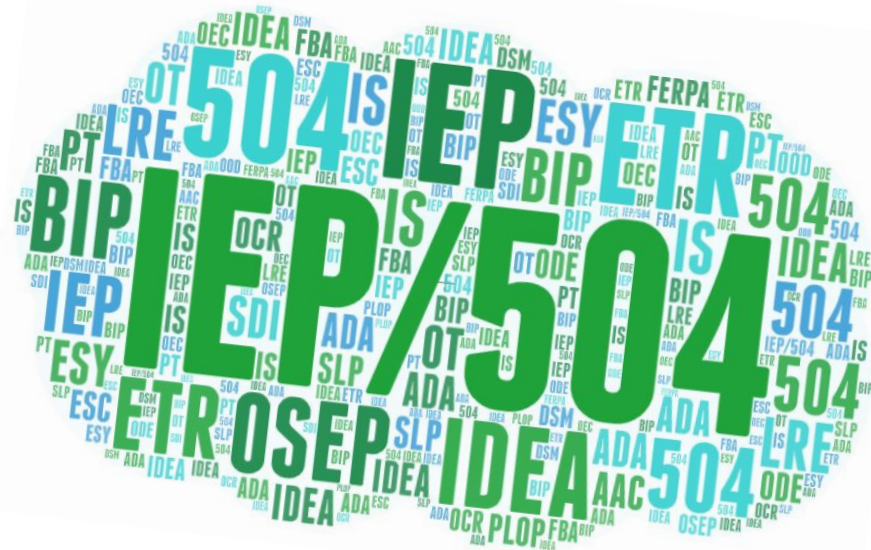
GROWING CRITICAL THINKING...

Students will grow their critical thinking through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information and complex problems.

FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING...

Students will actively acquire knowledge, take intellectual risks, demonstrate flexible thinking, adaptability, and embrace diverse perspectives to cultivate and express original creative ideas.

Special Education Services



Special Education is a Service, Not a Place.

The **MCS Special Education Department** is committed to ensuring that each student leaves school feeling valued and successful. We do this by building on strengths, providing individualized supports and offering a continuum of program options.

Special education is not defined by where it occurs, but rather the specially designed instruction (SDI) provided to meet the unique needs of each student within the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Supporting Every Learner's Journey

Services and supports are based on each student's unique needs. Examples include:

- Preschool center based and itinerant teacher supports
- General Education with push-in services & support.
- General Education with pull-out services & support.
 - Intensive instruction in literacy, math, executive functioning, etc.
- General Education with specialized classroom services & support.
- Specialized classroom instruction with a focus on Ohio's Extended Learning Standards for students with significant social, communication, sensory and/or cognitive needs.
- Services in a public separate school.
- Home instruction
- Hospital setting

Additional Services:

- Related Services (OT, PT, Speech)
- Work study opportunities
- Extra-curricular activities



MECC

English Language Development

Learning Together, Every Step of the Way

MECC's ESL program is founded on the philosophy of inclusion and active participation within the regular classroom to the fullest extent possible. Each English Learner (EL) is placed in a classroom that matches their age-appropriate level. They have access to effective core instruction, along with additional supplemental support as needed.

Every Teacher, Every Student

All M teachers and staff work together to support students' language, academic, social, and emotional growth. We believe every student's success is a shared responsibility and that all learners should feel included and valued in our school community.

Teamwork Helps Every Learner Shine

Every educator supports English Learners in unique ways. Content teachers teach grade-level subjects, ESL teachers build English language skills, and ESL paraprofessionals provide small-group and in-class support. Together, our Comet Community helps every student grow and succeed.

Every Learner, Every Story

Support for English Learners is part of Mason's **Learner-Centered System of Supports (LCSS)**, which values each student's unique story, strengths, and needs. Through collaboration and evidence-based practices, we ensure students receive consistent, personalized support to help them thrive. Every member of our Comet Community plays a role in student success, with ELs having access to a wide range of academic, social, and emotional supports.

ME

English Language Development

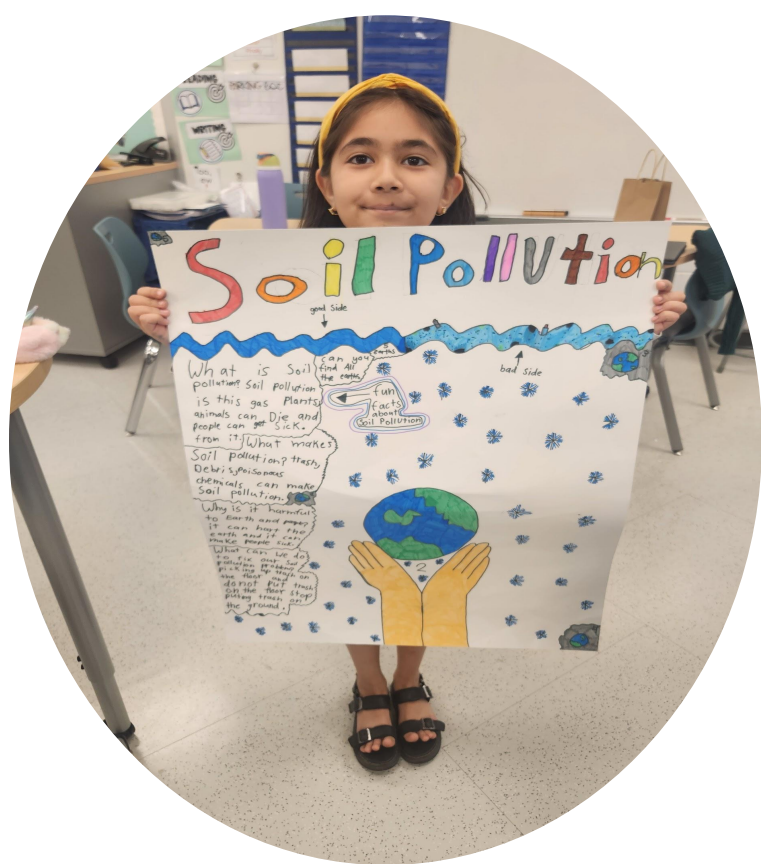
Big Voices, Bright Ideas!

Students are learning to **speak and write with confidence** — sharing stories, ideas, and opinions in English. Whether it's a class discussion or a writing project, they're finding their voice and expressing themselves proudly!



Reading to Discover New Worlds!

Students dive into stories, articles, and videos to **understand meaning, make connections, and explore ideas**. They're becoming active readers and listeners who think deeply and ask great questions.



Writing What Matters!

Students are finding their voice and learning to **write for a purpose** — describing, explaining, and supporting their ideas with examples and evidence. From short responses to full paragraphs, they're learning to make their thoughts shine on paper!

Words that Wow!

Students are expanding their **vocabulary and word choices**, learning how to say things in just the right way for school, friends, and new audiences.



English for Every Moment!

Children are mastering **English** so they can communicate clearly and confidently wherever they go — in school, at home, and out in the world.

MI

English Language Development

Listening and Speaking Skills

Our ELD classes teach and encourage students both in their production and comprehension of oral English through practicing listening to teacher instructions, collaborative peer interactions, and showing their own learning through oral expression.



Writing and Vocabulary

Students learn to plan, draft, and revise their writing for clarity and understanding. Academic language and grammar is a key focus in this work.

Cultural and Linguistic Confidence

Mason Intermediate's ELD classes create an environment where students value and take pride their multilingual identities their while learning how to use their first language as a resource for learning.



Reading Comprehension

We teach strategies for decoding complex texts to build comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction texts. In other words, we help them continue to 'learn to read' so they can 'read to learn' in their classes.



MMS

English Language Development

Building English Confidence

To feel confident using English at school and in the community, students practice **listening, speaking, reading, and writing** every day through interactive lessons, group activities, and engaging projects.



Supporting Academic Success

To help students achieve success in all academic subjects, ESL teachers work with content teachers to help students **understand vocabulary and concepts** in math, science, social studies, and language arts.



Developing Communication Skills

To use English effectively for learning, teamwork, and creativity, students learn to **share ideas, ask questions, give presentations, and write for real audiences.**

Celebrating Culture and Identity

To create a welcoming community where all students feel proud of who they are, we honor and celebrate **every student's language, culture, and story.**



Growing Toward Independence

To be ready for success in high school and beyond, students set **language goals**, use technology tools, and gain strategies for **self-directed learning.**



Prevention & Wellness

Integrated Student Support

We support every student's growth - academically, socially, and emotionally - using data from social, emotional, and behavioral screeners to deliver the right tiered and targeted supports that promote skill-building and long-term success.

Convenient Mental Health Access

Through key partnerships with MindPeace and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, we ensure students and families have immediate access to school-based mental health therapists, making care seamless, convenient, and connected to the student's daily school experience.

Removing Barriers to Learning

Our goal is to remove obstacles and empower every student to thrive. We connect families to resources, offer learning opportunities, and work alongside community partners to ensure student well-being is prioritized, in school and in life.

Caring for the Whole Family

We build a stronger community by addressing the foundational needs of our families. Initiatives like the Comet Cupboard (food assistance) and the commUNITY Holiday Help program ensure every family feels supported and every child experiences joy and belonging.