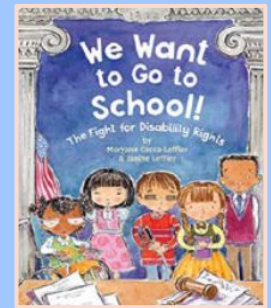
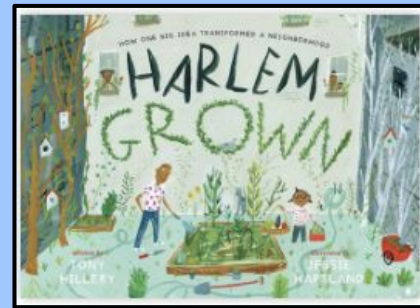
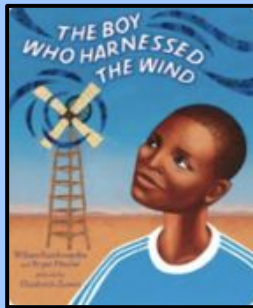
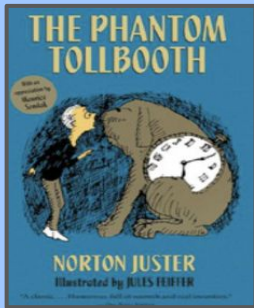




Arts & Letters Literacy Grant Implementation Update

Board of Education
February 25, 2026



1. Caregiver Survey Trends
2. A Quick View of Instruction
3. Cross-Content Connections
4. Next Steps

Arts & Letters Caregiver Winter Survey



Ann Arbor Public Schools: Arts & Letters Survey for Caregivers

B *I* U ↻ ✕

Please answer the questions below to share your perspectives of the new ELA Curriculum, Arts & Letters, being taught in your child's classroom. As a note, ELA stands for English Language Arts. It refers to the learning your child is doing in the areas of reading and writing.

572
Responses

21 Schools

K-5
Representation

Sample of Caregiver Comments

*“My child has requested that we **borrow books from the ELA curriculum from the library**, and she has been reading them to our family herself. She **“loves ELA”** The **time spent going in depth to a topic** seems to be working really well for my child. She is **proud** of her level and **reports her successes regularly.**”*

- Allen Caregiver
(1st Grade)

*“My daughter often **talks about what she's reading at the dinner table**. She's **eager to share the writing she does** as well. The latest essay showed a real undertaking of how to craft an effective paper with **topic sentences, supporting arguments and transitions.**”*

-Dicken Caregiver
(5th Grade)

*“We immediately **noticed a difference this year** in the fact that our son **comes home talking about what he learned in Arts & Letters**, talking about arteries and the immune system, sharing many things that he has learned. This is new behavior and I think it's because **the curriculum is intriguing and engaging to them.**”*

-A2 Steam Caregiver
(4th Grade)

Positive Caregiver Survey Trends

- Excitement about books
- Pride in writing pieces
- Enjoyment in sharing work with family
- Increased motivation to read independently

Students sharing **specific books, authors, vocabulary, facts, and ideas** from literacy instruction at home - suggesting strong content exposure.

- Improved **reading fluency and confidence**
- Increased **writing volume and detail**
- Greater **willingness to try challenging texts**
- Stronger **spelling, sentence structure, and idea development**

Arts & Letters Caregiver Webinar

Wednesday, March 18th

6pm

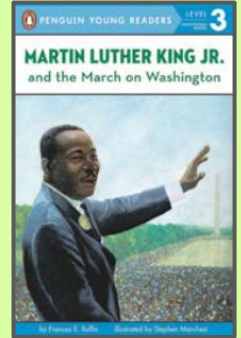
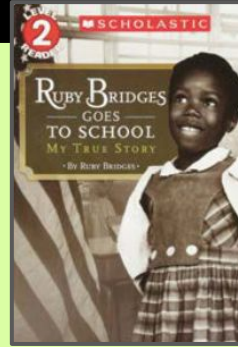
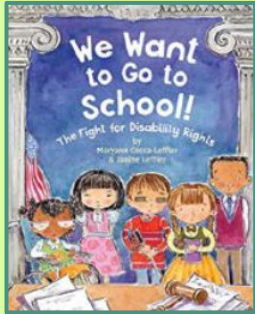
Arts & Letters Program Design and
Research-Based Practices

Addressing Common Caregiver
Questions:

- Why does my child have less choice in their reading and writing?
- Why are books read multiple times?
- Why is the ELA block longer?

Opportunity for Questions and Answers

2nd Grade: Module 3 Civil Rights Advocates

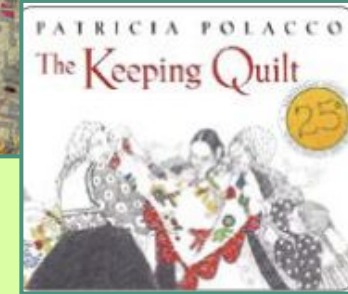
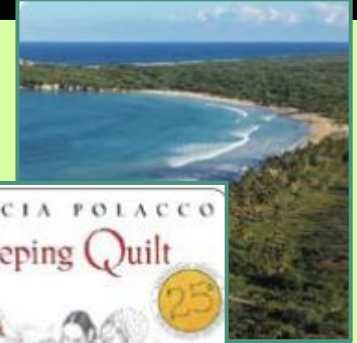
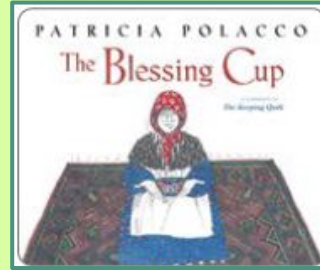


**Essential Question:
How did civil rights
advocates respond
to injustice?**

**End of Module Task:
Write 2 paragraphs to explain
how the advocates you chose
responded to injustice.**

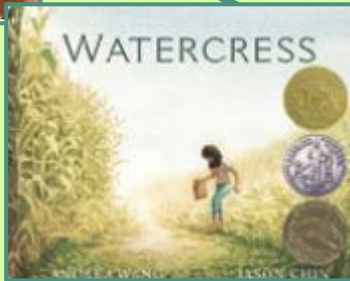
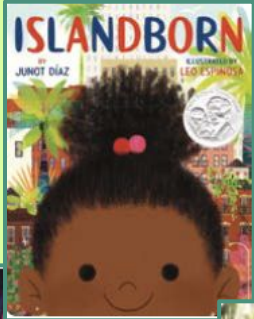
3rd Grade: Module 3

A New Home



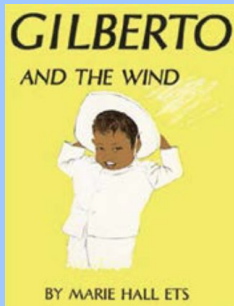
Essential Question:
How do stories help
us understand
immigrants'
experiences?

End of Module Task:
Write a narrative story about
a character who moves to a
new country?



1st Grade: Module 3 Wind Power

Allen Elementary staff developed a partnership with the **American Meteorological Society** chapter at the University of Michigan!

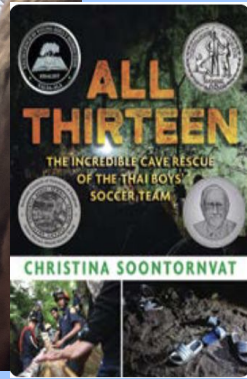


4th Grade: Module 1 A Great Heart



U of M running back, Justice Haynes, visited fourth graders at Logan for Module 1 to help answer the essential question, "What Does Having a Great Heart Mean?"

Justice read a book about the heart to students and taught them how athletes keep their hearts healthy through diet, exercise, and relaxation techniques.



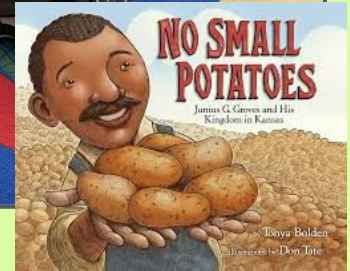
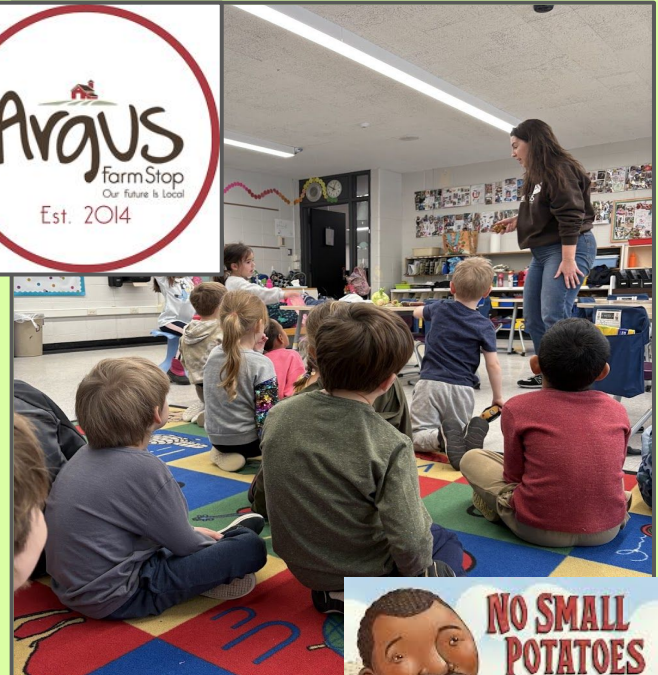
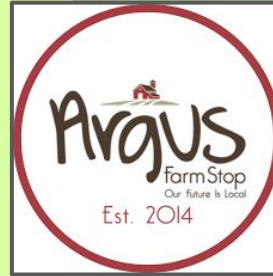
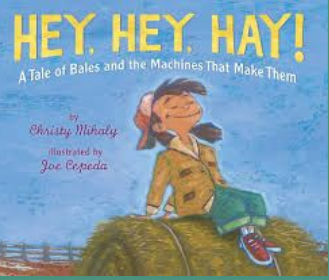
5th Grade: Module 2 Extreme Settings

Geologist Naomi Levin, a University of Michigan professor, visited the fifth-grade classrooms at Eberwhite Elementary for hands-on limestone exploration.

Students examined local rock samples, tested for limestone using diluted acid, and connected geology to their Module 2: Arts & Letters studies, discovering how scientists observe patterns to understand Michigan's ancient environments and history.



The Petting Farm



Kindergarten: Module 2 Once Upon a Farm



Next Steps

**Student Impact
Data Review**

**Teacher
Implementation
Survey**
May 2026

**Year End
Caregiver
Survey**
June 2026

**Professional
Learning in
Response to
Data**



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