

Dear Bridgman Families,

I am writing to share information about the reading curriculum used in our elementary schools and a recent development regarding Michigan's approved curriculum materials.

Bridgman Elementary School currently uses McGraw-Hill Wonders as our core English Language Arts curriculum for grades 3-4. Wonders is a comprehensive literacy program that provides instruction in areas including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, and writing. While Wonders is used by school districts across the country and has been approved or adopted for use in a number of other states, Wonders is not currently included on Michigan's list of approved core reading curricula.

It is important to understand that the absence of Wonders from Michigan's approved list does not, by itself, mean the curriculum has been determined ineffective or inappropriate for students. States establish their own review processes, criteria, and approved curriculum lists, and those decisions can differ from state to state. Our responsibility is to ensure that every Bridgman student receives high-quality, evidence-based reading instruction that develops the foundational skills necessary to become a successful reader.

Our elementary teachers supplement our core curriculum with additional evidence-based instructional practices and resources where appropriate. We also regularly review student achievement data to determine how well our literacy program is meeting the needs of our students.

Because Wonders is not currently on Michigan's approved list, the district will continue to carefully review our K-5 literacy program, including the alignment of our curriculum and instructional practices with Michigan's expectations and current research regarding effective reading instruction. We will also evaluate any implications associated with the state's approved curriculum requirements and guidance.

When we took a comprehensive look at Wonders, much of our decision-making process was informed by a national review of curriculum materials conducted by EdReports. This independent evaluation was an important component of our curriculum selection process. For a closer look at the evaluation of the Wonders materials, please see the direct link below. Wonders received a green rating, indicating that the materials met EdReports' expectations for quality and alignment.

<https://edreports.org/reports/overview/wonders-2023>

In the meantime, our teachers will continue their important work of providing strong literacy instruction and supporting each student as they develop their reading and writing skills.

Open communication with our families is essential. As state updates unfold and we work through next steps for our literacy curriculum, we promise to keep you updated every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Bridgman Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Thomas Reed
Superintendent
Bridgman Public Schools