
READ & RAISE

2010-2011 REPORT



GET ACTIVE!

CHANGE THE GAME!

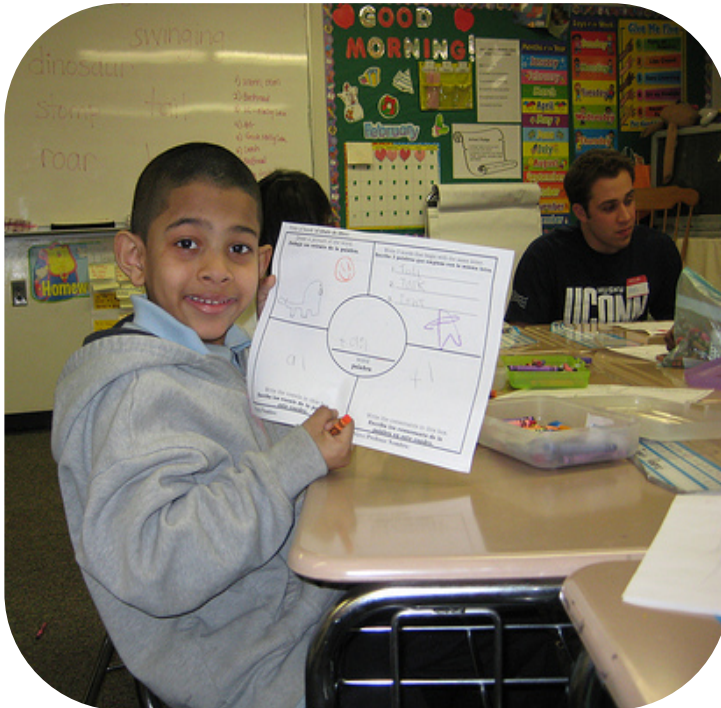
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Connecticut

Neag School of Education

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1st grade student at JC Clark Elementary and Middle School proudly holding his Read & Raise worksheet completed with the help of UConn students.

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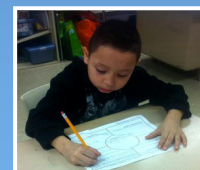
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*Changing The Game
One Book at a Time*

What is Read & Raise?

Read & Raise is a literacy initiative with pre-kindergarten to eighth grade students at three schools in Hartford, Connecticut. The three participating schools are John C. Clark Elementary and Middle School, Fred D. Wish Elementary and Middle School, and Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary and Middle School. Read & Raise is a close partnership between students, families, teachers, staff, Husky Sport personnel, the University of Connecticut community and the Hartford community.

History of the Program

In 2008 Read & Raise was developed by the then Principal of Clark school, Dr. Beryl Bailey, currently literacy coordinator of all Hartford Public Elementary Schools, in an effort to utilize Husky Sport college student volunteers to support the on-going literacy efforts of Clark's students and staff. The first year of the program students at Clark with the support of teachers, school staff, family members and Husky Sport personnel completed 9,872 books and worksheets. The tremendous success of the program encouraged Dr. Bailey and Husky Sport staff members Dr. Justin Evanovich, Leah Ward, and Director Dr. Jennifer Bruening to expand the program to additional schools in the North End area of Hartford.

In 2009-2010 Read & Raise included Clark once again as well as kindergarten-eighth students at Fred D. Wish and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each school was challenged to read and complete 10,000 books and worksheets however each school vastly exceeded this goal.



Clark completed 19,049 books and worksheets, Wish completed 18,638 books and worksheets and MLK completed 20,025 books and worksheets. Together the approximately 1,200 student participants read and completed an inspiring 57, 712 books and worksheets. In the three years of Read & Raise a total of 123, 911 books and worksheets have been completed.



How Does it Work?

Students read books and complete a worksheet for each book, chapter or article they read (depending on their reading level). The worksheets, developed by Dr. Bailey, literacy coordinators at each school, and input from teachers, are designed to improve students' comprehension and vocabulary skills. Worksheets are catered to different reading levels so teachers are able to provide their students with the worksheet that is appropriate for his or her individual literacy skill level. Students read and complete worksheets in school with the help of the teachers and Husky Sport personnel and at home with their families.

Two to three Husky Sport staff members are assigned to each school and provide a consistent presence within the school. Each staff member or "point person" commits to spending 5-10 hours a week on Read & Raise. These point people organize the distribution of incentives and are the information connection between Husky Sport and the schools. Point people read with students and assist students in completing worksheets. The success of the program is in large part due to the strong relationships the point people form with the school staff and the students.

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As students and classes reach numerical benchmarks of books read they receive incentives from Husky Sport. Incentives include reading visits with UConn college student volunteers, sports gear, facilitated recess time with UConn college student volunteers, healthy food tastings, and movie viewings. The incentives are done in a purposeful way to encourage healthy nutritional choices and being physically active. The program culminates in an all day field trip to the University of Connecticut Storrs campus in late April for top readers at each school. For the field trip an entire day of physical activities is planned by Husky Sport staff, students from the UConn sport management program enrolled in Dr. Janet Fink's Sports Marketing course and Dr. Laura Burton's Event and Facilities Management course. To end the year celebratory school assemblies are held at each school where students, teachers and staff are recognized for all their hard work.



"If you did not create this program, we would not have gotten better at reading. This program motivates us to do more reading and be better at it. When we came back from UConn, I remembered I had my book so I took it out of my bag and started to read. I want to be a good reader, and I want to be good at it. I know I am a better reader because of this program."
MLK- 6th student

"The students in my class LOVED having the in school reading days. They always enjoy having visitors, and especially enjoyed having the UConn students in our room. The kids have developed a great rapport with the students from UConn."
Clark teacher

"I really enjoyed watching over time how involved the class became with the reading. They stayed on task longer amounts of time and became independent readers. Also, the students loved checking the graph to see their gains."
Clark teacher

"When we were on campus, we got to know what college is like. I think that 90% of my class is going to go to college now because of this experience."
MLK- 6th student

2010-2011 in Perspective

Read & Raise 2010-2011 began in December with school assemblies explaining the program and getting students excited to compete amongst each other and with other schools to complete the most books and worksheets. For the second year Clark, Wish and MLK participated. We also began working with America's Choice at SAND Elementary and Middle School, also in the North End area, to establish Read & Raise there. Over the five-month initiative students completed 12,314 books and worksheets at Clark, 18,513 books and worksheets at Wish, 19,500 books and worksheets at MLK and 6,000 books at worksheets at SAND.



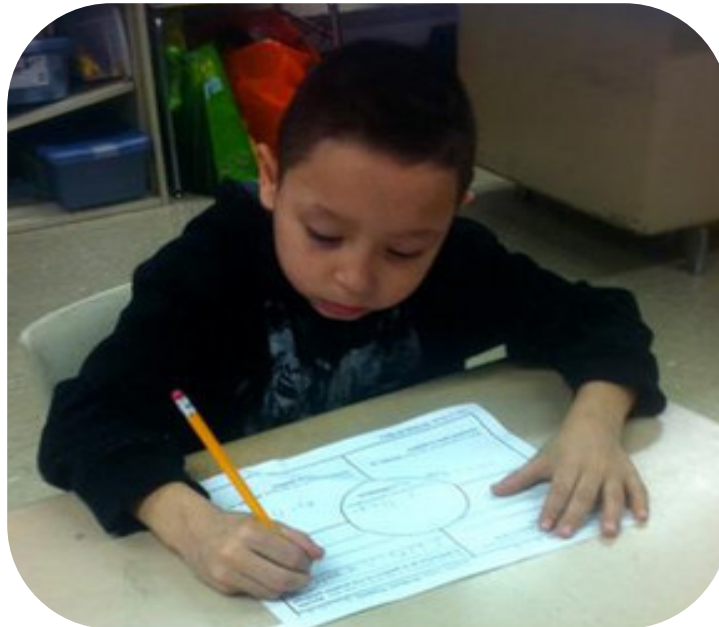
2010-2011 Survey Assessment

Throughout the duration of the Read & Raise initiative, the Husky Sport staff, as well as the teachers and administrators at the participating Hartford schools, have continually worked together to make adjustments to the program for the benefit of the student participants. In order to make the program the most beneficial for the students and because we believe their opinions are extremely important in developing the program, surveys were administered to 651 students participants. Two surveys were conducted: one for Kindergarten-third grade students that consisted of twelve survey points and another to fourth-eighth graders where students were asked to respond to the twenty-seven survey items composing nine factors.

Survey Results

The following are the most significant results:

- It's very important to all students to be good readers. This survey statement or factor was the most highly responded to. This makes it clear the students understand the importance of reading and want to develop into successful readers.
 - Grades K-3: 2.93 on a 3 point scale
 - Grades 4-8: 3.55 on a 4 point scale



- The students really enjoy reading with UConn students. This survey question was the second highest responded to statement.
 - Grades K-3: 2.87 on a 3 point scale
 - Grades 4-8: 3.52 on a 4 point scale



- Younger students are motivated by the incentives that Husky Sport gives out.
 - Grades K-3: 2.81 on a 3 point scale
- Older students are less motivated by the incentives and more motivated by recognition and encouragement from their teachers.
 - Grades 4-8: 3.37 on a 4 point scale



- Younger students slightly preferred reading as a class (2.79) to reading in small groups (2.55)
- Older students preferred reading on their own (3.36) or with UConn students (3.52) to reading in small groups (3.01)



- All grades responded lower to survey questions that looked at social aspects of reading in terms of involving family and friends in their reading efforts
 - Grades K-3: 2.52
 - Grades 4-8: 2.61