

READY, SET, READ!

REPORT

2015-2016



GET ACTIVE!

CHANGE THE GAME!



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READY, SET, READ! REPORT



2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Get Active!
Change the Game!*

Program Overview

Building off a strategic change in 2014, the Ready, Set, Read! program focused our efforts at one Hartford Public School, John C. Clark School, which enabled our staff to engage with students in grades K-4 on a weekly basis. This approach to engagement allowed for consistent and strong relationships to flourish. During every Read Monday, Husky Sport Program Leaders & UConn student volunteers engaged students in readings and activities around the themes of nutrition, physical activity and life skill development (aligned with the PBIS framework and Clark School's four core values of respect, responsibility, care, and safety). All lessons included activities, crafts, or technology with the aim to encourage and build a passion for reading.

SCOPE

One strength of the Ready, Set, Read! program is the consistent exposure to literacy comprehension opportunities for Clark School students. Throughout the 2015-2016 academic school year Husky Sport staff and K-4 students participated in:



9 Ready, Set, Read!
Classes per week

25 Engaging
Lesson Plans

42 Lunch Bunch
Incentives

70+ Books



PARTNERSHIPS

Clark School staff play an integral role in the Ready, Set, Read! lesson plan process. Program Leaders collaborated with teachers to improve and align lesson plans with district and school literacy curriculum. The following literacy skill building techniques were implemented to support student learning:

- How to project voices while reading
- Changing voices with each new character
- Choosing age appropriate books for students



Curriculum Process

Program Leaders collaborated to create lesson plans based on monthly cycle themes. Each group was tasked with creating a 3-4 week cycle and choosing an age appropriate and culturally relevant book that focused on one foundational pillar each week and an accompanied activity to reinforce literacy comprehension. As a larger group, Program Leaders had the opportunity to meet through professional development to address successes of lessons.



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Husky Sport Student Volunteers

Sport Based Youth Development volunteers continue to be an essential part of Husky Sport by having a consistent presence during programming! The volunteers were present for only two of the nine RSR! classes (3rd grade and 1st grade) for both the fall and spring semesters but were an benefit in every classroom they attended. Prior to visiting Hartford each week, student volunteers were emailed the objectives and lesson plans for the week. Furthermore, they are prepped about what the lesson of the day is and how to best support classroom management through incentives, through PBIS by Program Leaders on site. Additionally, volunteers assisted program leaders by engaging with students in small groups during activities.



EVALUATIONS

This year, RSR!'s evaluations included interactive student survey. Building off of the previous academic year's efforts, we strategized on ways to fully engage the students throughout the survey, in an active way, to gather their input around literacy and Husky Sport's involvement with RSR! Here is what our approach looked like:

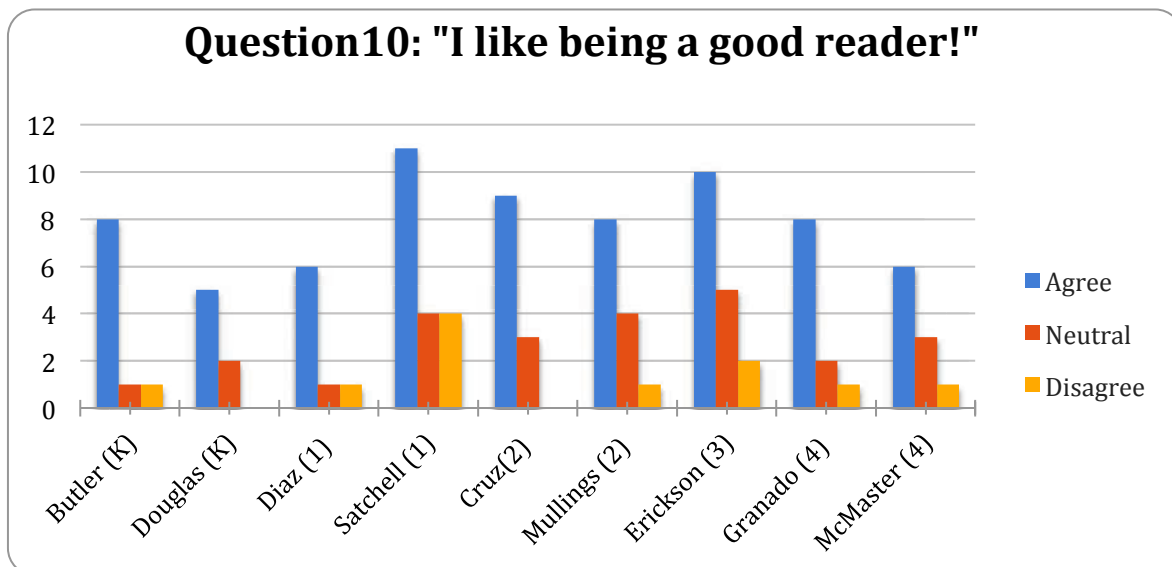
- 103 students from grades kindergarten to fourth grade participated
- Students rotated through 5 physically active stations to answer evaluation questions
 - Stations included obstacles and relay races that each ended with a question
 - There were a total of 15 evaluation questions
- Using stickers, students answered the questions under these areas:
 - Agree, neutral, or disagree using smiley faces

Survey Highlights:

70% of the students surveyed, believe it is important to be a good reader

71% of the students surveyed, enjoy when UConn people come to their class

66% of the students surveyed, like when UConn people read with them



KEY TAKEAWAYS

While reviewing the 2015- 2016 Ready, Set, Read! program year, there were three essential areas in which Husky Sport stakeholders believed the program flourished:

Programing

1. Read Mondays!- School wide literacy initiative all scheduled on one day
2. Program Leader teams to support lesson plan development and delivery

Lesson Plans

1. Creative, fun, engaging lessons tying closely to cycle themes
2. Choosing culturally relevant and applicable books for our students

Professional Development

1. Connecting with Clark School staff on best practices
2. Addressing potential issues/ set backs through well-designed lessons plans.



LOOKING AHEAD

Each year the Ready, Set, Read! program strengthens with the addition of talented Program Leaders, professional development, and continual investment in relationships with program stakeholders. In the coming academic year, Husky Sport will build on the program's successes and continue to promote exposure to literacy and healthy life styles! Logistically, Husky Sport, plans to invest more in the professional development of its staff and college volunteers to build confidence in Ready, Set, Read! lesson plan delivery and encourage the importance of alignment with the organization's mission and foundational pillars.

