

**Kings
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John Stankovich, Superintendent



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To: Steven Angel

RE: Drumming For Your Life Institute

Kids banging on books and reading aloud at the same time! Teachers are in there banging too! In fact they are even louder than the kids! And administrators are encouraging this kind of behavior...what in the world is going on?!

Rhythm & Reading has come to our campus. My teachers went through stages in those first few days of training. At first there was reluctance and disbelief. That was replaced by a, "let's give it a chance...it could be fun" attitude. Finally, there was acceptance, "This could work."

Then, it was time to try it with the students. Teachers were a little nervous. Our clientele are secondary Alternative School students. Their most important goal in life is—NEVER look stupid in front of your peers. This was a risky situation. Who would be the first to drum? Would the others follow? Would they actually accept such a "far-fetched" concept?

As the trainer led the students through the process, most students participated. Others were given time to ease into the drumming. There was no pressure, but there were expectations. There were some frustrations expressed, but the trainer calmly talked the students through each hitch.

And here is the upshot:

Teachers actually noticed that their students were reading better after ONE day of practice. After the first week, one teacher searched for more and more difficult reading material, actually trying to trip up her students—but they breezed right through the difficult reading material.

The results are truly astounding. I would highly recommend the Reading & Rhythm program to other educators looking for a way to improve students' reading.


Janet L. Schales

Principal, Kings County Office of Education, Alternative Schools