

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

Hononegah Community High School 9th grade students improve literacy with DreamBox Reading

Hononegah Community High School, District 207, Illinois

Located between Rockton, Illinois, and the southern border of Wisconsin, Hononegah Community High School serves students in Rockton, Roscoe, Shirland and parts of South Beloit. Mary Christoff, reading teacher, says the district implemented DreamBox Reading (formerly Reading Plus) for 9th grade students who needed extra support.

Christoff's primary goal was getting her students to read, but more importantly, to give them reading material that was appropriate for their levels of comprehension and vocabulary. Her first step was, "to incorporate DreamBox Reading into a weekly schedule so that my students knew what to expect." However, she explains, because students work at different paces, "trying to make sure they are all able to be successful while using their time appropriately is difficult!"

Fortunately, DreamBox Reading has helped with that. The program customizes instruction for every student by placing them at their just-right levels based on assessment data, and continually adapting to students' ongoing reading progress. Christoff especially loves the iBalance modules. "I believe that working on visual tracking and scanning in order to build up eye muscles is a critical element of reading that is often overlooked," she says.

Data is another component of the technology that really excites Christoff. "The DreamBox student growth data is helpful to not only share with parents, case managers and other colleagues," she says. "It's even more useful to share with students in order to create and track goals throughout the course of the school year."

In the past, the district had to rely on standardized tests to set goals. Now, rather than pigeonhole students with their test scores, teachers can help them set goals that meet their individual proficiency levels. **Christoff extols the importance of personalizing lessons. "It's easier for students to understand where they are at and where they want to be," she says.**

All this work has paid off. "My students have definitely improved as readers," she says. Students use the reread option more often, which has helped boost their confidence in the classroom. In addition, she believes that the routine and goal setting has helped them stay focused, further bolstering their confidence and skills.



About Hononegah Community High School

DreamBox Reading implementation:	9th grade intervention
Student Population:	Approximately 1,900
School Type:	Public
Race/Ethnicity	
White	92%
Black	1%
Hispanic or Latino	3%
Asian	2%
Two or more races	2%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

"We used to set goals around standardized tests (such as SAT, ACT, etc.); now we set goals for students that are based on skill and levels, and this is important because it is easier for students to understand where they are at and where they want to be."

- Mary Christoff

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