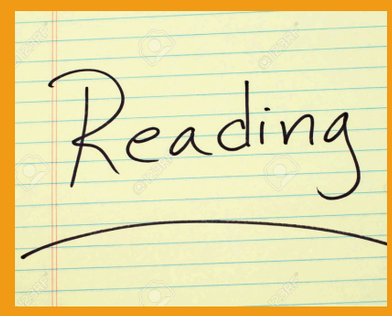
UP LIT



A grade 9 course at HHS that focuses on foundational reading skills

The rationale

There are students who come to grade 9 ready and willing to learn, but without the reading skills to be successful. To date, there have been few reading interventions or specific supports for these students. If they are not proficient readers by the end of grade 8, they often face challenges in the content-driven courses at the high school level. We believe with further evidence-based, explicit and systematic, data-driven reading instruction identified students can develop the confidence and proficiency to be more successful.

The students

Similar to the *Up Math* program at HHS, the *Up Lit* course will be made up of students recommended by their grade 8 teachers, as well as through screening and diagnostic reading data. Of course, caregivers - and the students themselves - must see the value of the course and have a strong desire to be part of it. It is designed for students who would benefit the most from revisiting the fundamentals of reading, including, but not limited to, students with reading disabilities. To make the most of the course, students should be regular school attenders, with sound executive functioning skills.

The curriculum

We will start by addressing gaps in phonemic awareness and further develop decoding skills, simultaneously working to strengthen language comprehension skills (including building/broadening vocabulary and morphological awareness) and reading fluency, with an overall goal of improving reading comprehension

Students will earn an English credit (ENG1L) in the first semester, but with the intention of moving into destreamed English (ENL1W) for second semester.