



# myON is the 'Missing Link' for Engaging and Empowering Sturgis Students and Teachers

What began as a K-12 summer school trial in 2014 quickly became a districtwide, year-round implementation in Sturgis Public Schools. From the start, Superintendent Thomas Langdon considered myON to be "the missing link" in getting kids excited about reading while helping them improve their skills.

Today, district leaders report a clear correlation between usage data from myON and improved reading scores. "We use iReady, and I've noticed that scores tend to go up more for the classes that use myON heavily than for other classes," explained Susan Langdon, District Special Education Supervisor.

She and Jane Tallmadge, longtime District Media Specialist, work closely with teachers to provide just-in-time individual support. Tallmadge also presents during PLC meetings. Both help teachers integrate myON into their classroom practice and differentiate instruction. "Teachers don't want another thing to do," Susan Langdon pointed out. "myON is really easy to implement and a really good data source, especially when we are looking at students who are struggling."

The "bells and whistles" that enable students to put on headsets and have books read to them, along with the option to group students within myON, are important considerations for teachers. So is the extensive digital library, which Sturgis supplements with additional collections from myON's respected partner publishers.

"Teachers who are doing biography projects really appreciate being able to select three different books about the same person all at very different reading levels," Tallmadge explained. "And the availability of Spanish titles is another popular feature, especially for younger students."

"Our students get to read what they like to read, because myON gives them control with the technology," Susan Langdon said. That includes the privacy many struggling readers require to be successful, whether they are reading texts at their level, which may not be the same as their classmates, or tackling higher level texts using optional scaffolds like naturally-recorded audio.

Students have daily access to devices and to myON and "they love it," Tallmadge said. "That hooks teachers, too, especially when they see their reluctant readers jump right in!"



**Susan Langdon**  
District Special Education Supervisor



**Jane Tallmadge**  
District Media Specialist



**Dr. Thomas Langdon**  
Superintendent

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Grade	Total		
	Books Read	Books Opened	Hours Spent Reading
3rd	1,560	3,409	334
4th	1,209	2,975	351
6th	1,269	2,700	494
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>9,084</b>	<b>1,179</b>

Student Engagement data for period April 2016 - December 2016