



# Edgar Murray Elementary Instills Habit, Love of Reading

Embodying their school district’s mission of “Leading for Life,” staff and parents at Edgar Murray Elementary help students in grades three through five set goals, monitor their reading progress and strive ever higher in developing the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

The school, part of the St. Clair R-XIII School District in Missouri, considers increasing student Lexile® scores to be among their “wildly important goals.”

Educators see myON as an important resource for their Balanced Literacy approach, helping educators infuse literacy across the curriculum and engage students in reading out of school time, too.

“Because myON is digital, students are naturally curious,” Principal Larrinda Witt explained. “When students see the variety of choices and find books on topics they’re interested in and that are at their reading level, they’re internally motivated to read.”

Witt added, “We ask kids to read 20 minutes a night at home. That’s difficult for many families who don’t have a lot of books at home. myON levels the playing field and makes it easier for all students to enjoy reading. The success they experience with myON has accelerated their reading and academic growth.”

Teachers use myON to monitor student growth and determine reading targets for each individual and class. Students help graph their own reading data and use it to inform their goal-setting. During the 2015-16 school year, teachers set sights high, aiming for an average 20-point jump in student Lexile® scores each month. They’ve often met or exceeded it.

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**— MELISSA HUSEREAU  
 INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
 AND LITERACY COACH**

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND GROWTH

Grade	Students	Total			Average		
		Books Read	Words Read	Hours Read	Earliest Lexile	Latest Lexile	Lexile Growth
3rd	172	18,472	23,251,548	3,793	270	385	115
4th	126	10,236	23,452,896	3,888	490	580	90
5th	178	8,297	16,946,845	3,453	580	660	80
<b>Total:</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>37,005</b>	<b>63,651,289</b>	<b>11,134</b>			

The school offers students monthly incentives and rewards for achieving their goals.

In the Murray Monthly News video broadcast, students analyze myON data and recognize “Murray Minions,” the top individual readers and the top class in each grade level based on time spent reading. Data walls in the classrooms also help students see the path toward their goals.

“We realized we needed to hold students accountable for their Lexile® levels,” said third grade teacher Danielle Sachs. “The simplicity of myON is really important. It’s easy for students and teachers to use to instill the habit and love of reading.”

Student excitement for myON helped drive initial teacher exploration, even when they were already undergoing significant change in the school, moving to a Google platform, mobile devices and several online curriculum and supplemental programs.

“From the first to second year of use, teachers are more deeply integrating myON into their curriculum, and students are being more intentional in the Lexile® assessment process and tracking their growth,” Witt observed.

Melissa Husereau, the school’s Instructional Technology and Literacy Coach, provides ongoing support to teachers, including weekly Tech Tuesdays voluntary professional development sessions.

“Teachers use myON every day, often several times a day in an interdisciplinary approach, from independent and guiding reading to science and social studies content to research projects,” Husereau said.

Teachers also use the built-in quiz questions for students to respond as well as adding their own “read-to-find-out” questions.

Sachs particularly enjoys using the literacy toolkit with her class. “The ability for students to take notes and annotate books is a very beneficial instructional resource,” she said. “I can see what they’re doing and use it to model reading and spark discussion. It also helps me to visualize their thinking and informs my teaching.”



Larrinda Witt  
Principal



Melissa Husereau  
Instructional  
Technology and  
Literacy Coach



Danielle Sachs  
Third Grade  
Teacher



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