



Response to Intervention (RTI)

In an effort to help close the achievement gap for at-risk learners, as well as provide enrichment opportunities for students performing on or above benchmark levels, an RTI framework for all 1st/2nd grade students was implemented. RTI is an instructional approach that enables schools to provide supports for all students. RTI is a research-based framework that involves ongoing assessment of student performance, use of evidence-based instructional practices to provide quality instruction targeted to meet individual student needs, and data-based decision-making.

Our current RTI block is embedded into the schedule for 35 minutes daily. We structured our framework to have teachers working as interventionists with 2-4 students in a group and others serving as cycle area teachers providing enrichment opportunities with 20-25 students in their classes. This framework provides every student with meaningful instruction based on their needs and allows students to meet new teachers and friends from different classrooms, which has really promoted a positive school culture.

Each RTI cycle runs for approximately 20 school days and we have seven total cycles a year. Interventionists administer pre/post assessments with their groups, and progress monitor each week. This data is used at the end of each cycle at a meeting where we plan the next cycle of interventions needed based on student progress. Cycle area teachers design engaging, challenging lessons that are aligned to the standards to help students deepen their knowledge across the curriculum. These enrichment cycles include: ecosystems, fairy tales, county/state history, literature, math exploration, related arts (i.e. - art, music, PE, Spanish), technology using iPads, and world cultures.

2nd grade Cycle Areas

Within our Response to Intervention (RTI) block at Oakview, we offer students enrichment opportunities that extend across the curriculum. Some of our students will participate in these classes daily, while others will join these classes on Fridays and receive additional, small-group interventions to target specific skills needed the rest of the week during this time. Here is a brief summary of each of the cycle areas your child will be exposed to throughout the school year.

Ecosystems

Students will learn about the two main types of ecosystems (aquatic vs. terrestrial), as well as the sub categories under each type. Mini booklets and projects will be completed to enhance student learning. Students will also be watching online videos to “experience” each ecosystem first hand. By the end of the cycle, students will be able to list and explain different ecosystems and the plants and animals that inhabit the area.

Fairy Tales

Students will be diving into the realm of fairy tales. We will engage in discussion of background knowledge, characteristics of a fairy tale, and relevant vocabulary. Students will participate in read-a-louds, work on comprehension skills, and explore exciting extension activities using their imagination and critical thinking skills.

County/State History

Students will learn all about the people, places and activities in Gloucester County and the State of New Jersey that they are familiar with as well as new places and facts about our great state. The facts and places will include Atlantic City/Monopoly, historic lighthouses, Summit at Rowan University, Capital and governors, Summer White House in Cape May, Statue of Liberty, state symbols and names, famous inventors/inventions, known actors and musicians and so much more. They will be traveling Gloucester County and New Jersey with a passport, which will be stamped each day and work on an activity book including some projects that highlights each place that is discussed in this cycle.

Literature

Students will be reading chapter books and engaging in response to literature activities that will include discussing the author’s purpose, characters, setting, main ideas and supporting details. Some examples of books students will be reading are: *Henry and Mudge*, *Mr. Tabby and Putter*, *Frog and Toad*, *Junie B. Jones* and *Cam Jansen*.

Math Exploration

Students will be exploring math concepts through games, technology, and centers. They will think of innovative ways to solve every day math problems that they could possibly run in to in real life. These activities will correspond with the second grade math standards as the year goes on.

Related Arts (Art, Music, Physical Education, & Spanish)

In Art, students will learn about selected well-known artists and their artistic styles. We will learn about their lives and create artwork influenced by their style and techniques.

In Music, students will be honing our performance techniques. Students will learn skills such as improvisation, vocal projection, how to be a good audience and stage directions. These performance skills will not only prepare the students to perform on a stage for our Spring Musical, but it will also give them confidence when speaking in front of their class or reading aloud. They will learn teamwork and focus by working together to play theater based games and perform short lines and scenes!

In Physical Education, students will be introduced to the necessary life and health skills that are important in the promotion of safety and overall wellness.

In Spanish, students will be exploring the country of Mexico, our neighbor to the south. They will be making the Mexican flag along with learning about the Aztec legend that goes along with the symbol on the flag. They will explore the different customs and legends of the three main ancient indigenous tribes, the Aztecs, the Incas and the Mayas and how these customs are important in present day Mexico. They will also discuss some of the holidays of the Mexican culture, including Cinco de Mayo.

Technology

Students will use iPads, in a highly structured setting, to explore applications that directly relate to the 2nd grade math and literacy standards. Instruction will engage students in early coding activities, digital storytelling and animation and build upon the skills they learned in the technology cycle in 1st grade. We will use apps that focus on strengthening our math skills, reading comprehension and grammar. Additionally, students will work on problem solving and logic puzzles, such as tangrams and Sudoku, which encourage students to preserve and apply problem solving skills in a familiar, engaging environment.

World Cultures

Students in this cycle will be exploring the seven continents! They will take a deep dive into the culture of each country they visit to learn more about the language, geography, food, customs, and global impact each has on our interconnected world.