

Rochester City School District
 English Language Arts & Literacy Department
 Kathryn Yarlett, Executive Director of
 Reading by Third Grade, Pre-K to Grade 3
 Brenna Farrell, Director of ELA, Grades 4-12

April
 2016

Dear K-8 Teachers and Administrators,

The K-8 Writing Team, a ten-member group of teachers, instructional coaches, and directors, is excited to announce the release of their second product, *K-8 Student Informative Writing Rubrics*. The prompt and task sets are being provided to accompany the K-2 (CKLA) and 3-8 (Engage NY Modules) curricula. The K-8 rubrics are being shared in an editable format to offer teachers flexibility and to support the Understanding by Design (UBD) lesson planning model. The remaining genre rubrics (argument/opinion, response to literature) and their corresponding prompt and task sets will be released over the course of the next two months.

A high-quality professional learning series created by the ELA Content Area Directors, entitled *Reaching Students' Writing Potential with Rubrics*, will be held again in May. Please check Generation Ready soon. These workshops afford participants an opportunity to become familiar with current writing research, the progress of students' writing skills in tandem with rubric implementation, and the usage of rubrics as instructional tools. We hope you'll join us.

The K-8 Writing Team's goal is to ensure that teachers and administrators across the Rochester City School District have the tools to help their students find success with NYS Common Core Writing Standards for College and Career Readiness. We welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions.

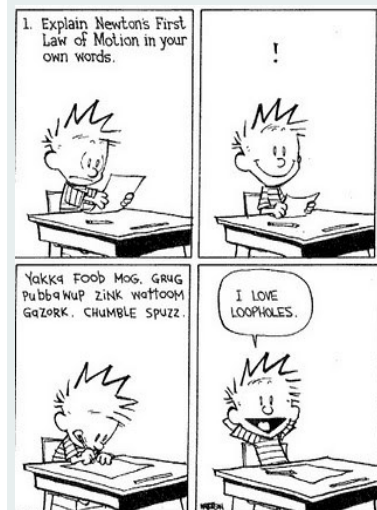
Thank you for all you do,

The K-8 Writing Team

Please click [HERE](#) to access the K-8 Informative Writing Rubrics. Please note that these rubrics will also be accessible through eLearning in the K-12 English Curriculum folder, K-8 Student Writing Rubrics.

HELPFUL LINKS (HOLD THE CTRL BUTTON DOWN AND THEN CLICK THE LINK.)

- [Click here for eLearning](#) (including Pacing Guides)
- [ELA Common Core Learning Standards](#)
- [K-2 Supplemental Curriculum Resources](#)
- [3-5 Supplemental Curriculum Resources](#)
- [NYS ELA 3-8 Test Guides, Released Questions, and More!](#)
- [K-8 Writing Rubrics](#)

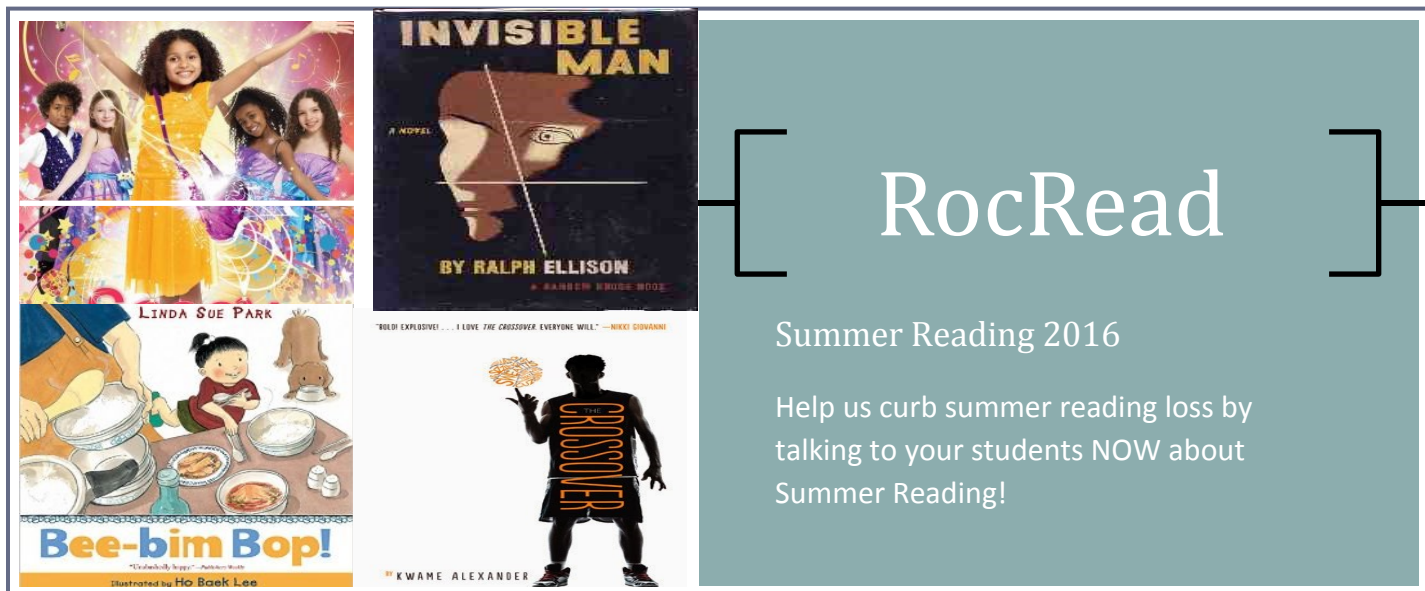


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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Summer Reading 2016!
- K-8 Informative Writing Rubrics
- Sokol Literacy Winners
- Strategy of the Month: Word & Sentence Expansion



Research shows that students can lose as much as three months of grade-level reading equivalency over the summer months. Access to reading materials is consistently identified as an important element in stemming such loss. With this in mind, over the next several weeks the district will deliver to each building a selection of reading titles for students to take home over the summer.

- ⇒ **Students Grades K-1** will receive five pre-selected books and an opportunity to choose five additional books from a large selection of titles. **Grade 2** will receive six pre-selected books and an opportunity to receive five additional books from a large selection of titles. These books will arrive to buildings during the week of May 31st. K-2 students will also receive a book bag from the Center for Youth. These bags—pre-packed with summer-reading assignments, guidelines, the pre-selected five books per student, and bookmarks—will arrive at schools by June 3rd for distribution to students during the book fair.
- ⇒ **3-8 Buildings** will receive a large delivery of grade-appropriate books during the week of May 31st. Printed materials—RocRead flyers of suggested reading, activities for the summer months, posters, and bookmarks—will arrive by June 3rd so that a book fair can take place during the week of June 13th – June 17th to allow time to unpack boxes and setup the book fair. In addition to receiving printed materials, each student will choose 2 books during the book fair.
- ⇒ **7-12 Buildings and 9-12 Buildings** will receive a delivery of grade-appropriate books during the week of May 16th. Printed materials—RocRead flyers of the suggested reading, activities for the summer months, posters, and bookmarks—will arrive by May 20th. All materials will be in the buildings so that a book fair can take place during the week of May 31st – June 3rd. This will allow time to unpack boxes and setup the book fair. In addition to receiving printed materials, each student will choose 2 books during the book fair.

The Summer Reading Initiative for grades K-12 provides Rochester City School students with a list of engaging book titles to read over the summer months. Each student is required to read at least one book. Students will have a chance to win prizes by:

- **Grades K-8:** Turning in their reading log at their local library or summer school library and engaging in a literacy-based board game with the Literacy Aid;
- **Grades 7-12:** Participating in an online google group with their peers for a chance to win weekly prizes.



Strategy of
the Month

**Sentence and Word Expansion:
A Vocabulary Strategy**

Rationale:

The research is clear that student understanding of vocabulary has a major impact on reading comprehension. In turn, research on vocabulary instruction consistently confirms that the most effective vocabulary instruction involves multiple exposures to words in varying contexts along with activities requiring deep processing. Just memorizing definitions is not enough. Repetition and elaboration are key. Most studies with positive effects involve strategies in which students do multiple “things” with vocabulary words – things involving writing, drawing/visualizing, organizing, and discussing. Sentence and Word Expansion is one such strategy.

Steps:

- Take a concept from a text and use it in a simple sentence.
- Decide upon a series of questions that make sense for the particular word or concept. Then answer those questions.
- Then have students expand the original sentence. See below for a science example.

Term/Concept in a Simple Sentence:	Plants photosynthesize.
What kind?	Green trees, flowering plants, grass
When?	Daytime, summer, when the sun is out or in artificial light
Where?	Chloroplasts, leaves, chlorophyll
What is necessary?	Sunlight, water, carbon dioxide, temperature
What is formed?	Glucose, oxygen
Why?	To change light energy into chemical energy
Term/Concept in an Original Sentence:	Trees and flowering plants photosynthesize in the daytime. The chlorophyll in the chloroplasts located in the leaves combines with light, water, and carbon dioxide to form glucose and oxygen. The end result is that light energy changes into chemical energy.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: COLLEGIAL LEARNING CIRCLES

- (NEW) ELA_Designing Coherent Instruction: Reaching Students' Writing Potential with Rubrics (14546) - More Classes Coming Soon!
- (NEW) ELA_Content Area Literacy: A Framework for Teaching and Learning (14715): April 30th, May 2nd, and May 4th
- ELA_Designing Coherent Instruction: Vocabulary Instruction that Creates Better Writers (9677)
- ELA_Designing Coherent Instruction: Student Engaged Assessment (9678)
- ELA_Designing Coherent Instruction: Backwards Design & Lesson Planning (9521) - Get a chance to plan lessons with your colleagues! Feb. — May 4-6pm
- Castle Learning: An Online Regents Prep Tool for Math, English, Science, & Social Studies (9679) - Please reach out to Brenna if you are interested in scheduling a training at your building!



ASAR/SAANYS Scholar's Awards

ASAR/SAANYS will be awarding ten (10) \$500 awards on a competitive basis to graduating seniors in the Rochester City School District. Please encourage seniors to apply!

To be eligible for the competition, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled as a student in the Rochester City School District.
- Be scheduled to graduate in **June 2015** from a school in the RCSD.

Complete a scholarship application packet and submit it to:

ASAR Office

25 N. Washington Street

Rochester, NY 14614

Attention: Timothy Wagner, Executive Director

(Applications can be sent electronically to
tim.wagner@rcsdk12.org)





Every Child Ready to Read!

A series of early reading programs for families with children ages 0-5



Arnett Saturdays

April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Arnett Branch Library • 310 Arnett Boulevard

The May 7th session will be a cooking/nutrition workshop with the Social Chef.

Phillis Wheatley Wednesdays

April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4

5:30-7:00 pm

Phillis Wheatley Community Library
33 Samuel McCree Way

The May 4th session will be a cooking/nutrition workshop with the Social Chef.

Parents/caregivers will learn about the importance of reading to their children and using five different tools – playing, singing, talking, reading & writing.

The children will have supervised storytime and other learning activities while their parents learn about the reading tools. The families will come together to practice what they've learned at interactive experience stations.

In addition, families will:

- Receive a free, nutritious meal at each session
- Have a chance to win one \$25 Wegmans gift card via random drawing at each session
- Have a chance to win the final \$150 Wegmans gift card drawing at the end of the series!

This FREE program has a maximum attendance of 50 (adults and children) at each session, so register now! For Arnett Branch call 585-428-8214, for Phillis Wheatley Library call 585-428-8212.

This library is accessible to people with disabilities. To request specific accommodations call 585-428-8284 ten days prior to the program.

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Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library
with the generous support of Mr. & Mrs. Eli and Mildred Sokol and the Community Foundation

HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

ENTER your best written or performed POETRY and PROSE in the

2016 Sokol

High School Literary Awards Contest

POETRY and PROSE categories each have three awards:

First Prize \$300

Second Prize \$200

Third Prize \$100

A PERFORMANCE Prize of
\$300 will also be awarded.

Students in grades 9 - 12 enrolled in Monroe County schools are invited to enter their poetry, short fiction prose (no essays), and/or recorded performances to this prestigious annual contest.

Entry Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2016

WINNERS ANNOUNCED!!!

Thank you to all of the students who entered the competition, and to the teachers who encouraged them. The public is invited to the awards ceremony on **Thursday, May 5 at 4pm** at Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, 115 South Avenue in downtown Rochester. Keynote speaker will be Sejal Shah, author and 1989 Sokol Award recipient.

Rebecca Fuss

*Director of Programming & Outreach
Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library
115 South Avenue, Rochester NY 14604*

SOKOL HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY AWARD WINNERS!!!!

POETRY

First Prize:

Kosher Feelings

Stephanie Cui, The Harley School, Grade 10

Second Prize:

Cornrows

Aleah Adams, School of the Arts, Grade 12

Third Prize:

Paper Wings

Elizabeth Pinchman, Pittsford Mendon High School, Grade 12

PROSE

First Prize:

Chrysanthemums

Cameron James Bennett, School of the Arts, Grade 11

Second Prize:

From the Wild

Maggie Straight, Penfield High School, Grade 11

Third Prize:

Lost

Madelyn Dewey, Webster Schroeder High School, Grade 11

PERFORMANCE

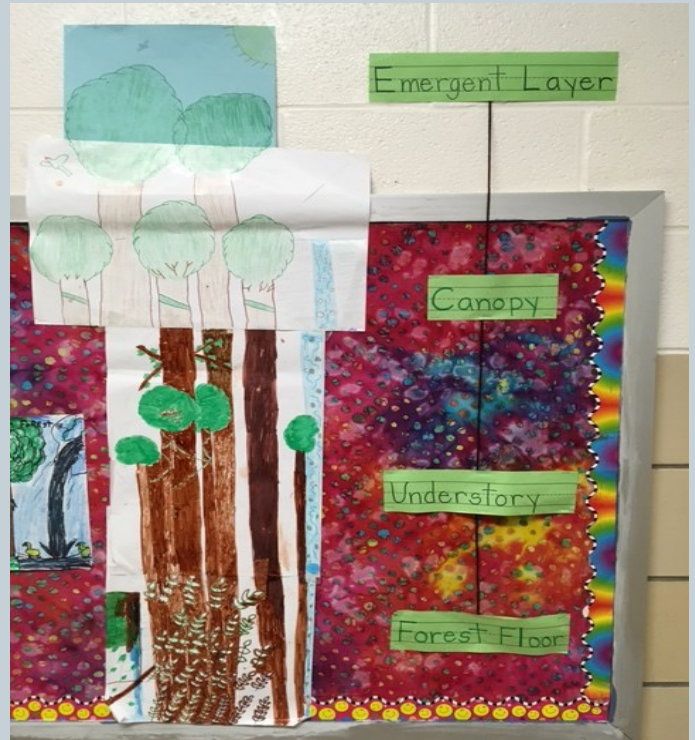
Another African American

Asher Phillips, School of the Arts, Grade 9

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS



Fifth grade students at School #15 demonstrated their learning about rainforests from Module 3 by creating posters, charts, and diagrams! Way to go Fifth Grade Family at School #15!



Fourth grade students at School #54 created an amazing quilt as a result of the standards-based lessons found in Grade 4 Module 1 Unit 3 as well as some fantastic teaching! Teachers Roberta Goldstein and Angela Polino-Ferris are very proud of their students!



We know there are amazing things happening in your classrooms! Please email pictures with a short description to Katie Yarlett so your ideas can be included in a future newsletter!!

KathrynL.Yarlett@rcsdk12.org