

Reading and Math Camp Summer 2013

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498
tel 320.308.2041
fax 320.308.3475

www.stcloudstate.edu/sped

Program Philosophy

The Reading and Math Camp is a collaborative program between the Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools and the Department of Special Education at St. Cloud State University. The camp is a graduate-level teacher practicum that provides summer Targeted Services to more than 225 students in first through ninth grade. The camp is designed to build students' reading and math skills while facilitating the professional growth of graduate special education teacher candidates. Immediately prior to the camp, teacher candidates must enroll in Learning Disabilities Methods (SPED 546) whereby they acquire the specialized methods and strategies necessary for participation in the summer practicum. High quality, direct instruction is provided to students that use teaching methods that are strongly supported by current research. Also, well-designed research is conducted during the Reading and Math Camp to answer questions about learning and teaching. Every student's progress is closely monitored within supportive, co-taught classrooms, and a positive climate for academic success is nurtured throughout the six-week program.

Pre- and Post-Assessment

In addition to existing information from the Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools and a Continual Learning Plan (CLP), all students are assessed using a battery of tools to measure reading rate, accuracy, and achievement in mathematics. Post assessment information documents growth in reading and math as a result of specialized interventions. Other curriculum-based measures provide information related to each student's reading and math skills to ensure that instruction is specially tailored to meet the performance goals and learning needs of each child in the program. Every student's learning graphs, progress charts, work samples, and assessment information are compiled and presented as a Targeted Services Report for parents, the Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, and the Department of Special Education at St. Cloud State University.

Validated Practices

During the camp, teachers implement evidence-based curricula and use effective techniques for presentation of the content. Responsibilities of every teacher includes the following:

- Use assessment procedures to plan reading and math instruction
- Organize the learning environment
- Select validated instructional models to provide instruction in reading and math
- Use effective teaching behaviors
- Use evidence-based methodology to develop reading and math skills
- Monitor student progress using curriculum-based measurement (CBM)
- Modify curriculum and instruction
- Evaluate teaching effectiveness via daily reflection

In summary, the Reading and Math Camp ideology emphasizes three critical areas that correspond with the most important components of the teaching and learning process: (a) planning instruction, (b) delivering instruction, and (c) evaluating student and teacher performance.

Bradley J. Kaffar, Ph.D.
Director, Reading and Math Camp