



Dear Berkley Families,

We are committed to ensuring that every student builds a strong foundation in reading. That's why all Berkley Elementary Schools have implemented the **95 Phonics Core Program** as part of our **Tier 1 structured literacy solution** for students in **Kindergarten through Fifth Grade**.

This research-based program is grounded in the **science of reading** and provides explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction to support students' literacy development at every stage. Designed to align with all **Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for foundational literacy**, it ensures consistency across grade levels while reducing the need for interventions.

Key benefits of the 95 Phonics Core Program:

- ✓ **Whole-Class Instruction** – Helps all students build a solid reading foundation.
- ✓ **Proven Effectiveness** – Backed by overwhelming scientific evidence.
- ✓ **Teacher-Guided Approach** – A gradual release model ensures students receive the support they need.
- ✓ **Daily Lessons** – 30-minute structured lessons, 25–30 weeks per year.
- ✓ **Flexible & Compatible** – Works alongside any literacy curriculum.

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners build upon foundational reading standards, using phonemic awareness as an anchor for mastery of letter-sound correspondences. The program introduces reading and writing application tasks supporting students in developing their automaticity in sound-to-grapheme connections.

Grade 1

Grade 1 students use consistent routines, dialogues, phonics, chip colors, and gestures to ensure learning is focused on mastering skills instead of varied instructional processes. Consistent, fun and explicit lesson structures in sequential order help students make progress.

Grade 2

Grade 2 students sustain steady progress toward fluency as they work on strengthening and mastering their phonics and phonemic awareness skills. Using consistent and explicit lesson structures, and learning phonics skills in sequential order, students will successfully identify, read and write grade-level text.

Grade 3

Grade 3 focuses on using the previously taught foundational phonemic awareness and phonics skills to build automaticity in reading multisyllabic words in both isolation and in text. Instruction centers on explicitly teaching the six syllable types as well as the morphological structure of words. Decoding and encoding application tasks ensure students have the word attack skills necessary for reading and writing text with increasing complexity.

Grade 4

Grade 4 students engage with authentic text based on science, social studies, and pop culture topics to learn word attack strategies. The program uses explicitly designed word study routines to analyze words using multisyllabic patterns and morphological structures. Multisyllable word work with explicit instruction on the six syllable types and morphology instruction for gilding word knowledge and meaning are key features.

Grade 5

Grade 5 students continue to strengthen their literacy skills and prepare for more complex texts in middle school. Sustained word study routines help them analyze complex words using multisyllabic patterns and morphological structures. Science, social studies, and pop culture topics keep them engaged.

By implementing this structured literacy solution, we are setting up our students for long-term success in reading and beyond.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting our young learners!

Best,

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Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Technology