
Mar. 5, 2013

1A-1

Memorandum

To: City Manager Curtis Hawk
From: Linda Cantu, City Secretary
Date: Feb. 26, 2013
Subject: March 5, 2013 City Council Agenda

1. Proclamation – Richland Middle School

Staff contact:

Linda Cantu, City Secretary
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Proclamation

by the

City of Richland Hills

WHEREAS, Richland Middle School has been named a recipient of the 2013 Read Right Award of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Richland Middle School has embraced the practices that are essential for the delivery of a successful reading program; and

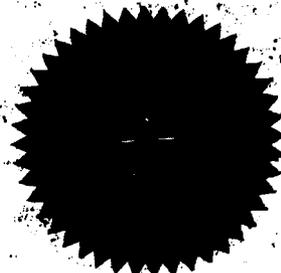
WHEREAS, Richland Middle School has been recognized as helping students improve reading at a phenomenal pace;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it known by all that I, Bill Agan, Mayor of the City of Richland Hills, Texas, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim the Council's recognition and appreciation to

Richland Middle School Students and Staff

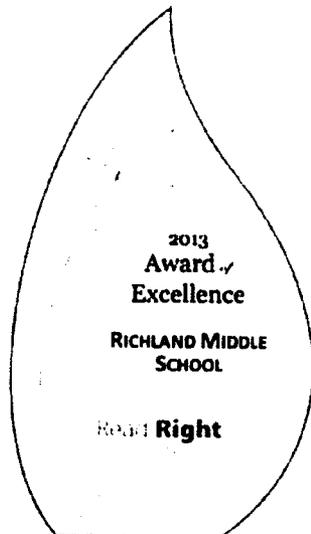
for their diligent efforts in consistently striving for excellence in education and thereby making our community a better place.

PROCLAIMED this 5th day of March, 2013.



Bill Agan
Mayor, City of Richland Hills

Dianna Carter
City Secretary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rhonda Stone
Read Right Systems
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Date: February 5, 2013

Richland Middle School, Richland, Texas, has been named a recipient of the 2013 Read Right Award of Excellence for embracing three practices essential for the delivery of a successful reading program: (1) Fidelity to the instructional methodology, (2) regular summative evaluation, and (3) strong administrative support.

"Richland Middle School is helping students improve in reading at a phenomenal pace," said Read Right Founder and CEO Dee Tadlock, Ph.D. "Teens are supposed to be the hardest to remediate when a reading problem becomes established. Richland Middle School's staff and students are proving otherwise. They are successful with all kinds of students and they are a model for the nation."

Last spring, the school completed pre- and post-testing using a norm-referenced standardized reading test with 113 students, ages 10 through 14. The average for the group was 2.4 grade levels of gain (19.6 normal curve equivalents or NCEs). Of those tested, 27 were special education (SPED) students. They, too, performed well, achieving 1.8 grade levels of gain (14.0 NCEs). And, of the 113 students tested, 44 were English language learners (ELL). Their performance mirrored gains for all students, but they topped the charts in NCEs: average 2.4 grade levels of gain or 21.6 NCEs.

Whereas the reading program can be staffed with certified teachers or classified aides, 75 percent of Richland's tutors are certified teachers. "Our teachers have high expectations and procedures in place to make every minute count," noted Dr. Leeann Michalak Bartee, Richland Middle School principal. "From February to May last year, our ELL and SPED population experienced at least one grade level gain. We contribute these gains to the consistency and quality of tutoring, as well as the support from fellow staff members and administration."

The following student quotes are from surveys conducted with students by Richland Middle School staff.

Has Read Right helped you improve performance in other classes?

"In English, I was like okay at that class, and now I'm like 'BAM!' so good!"

-- Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 2-3. Status: Completed/Graduated at Grade 6-7.

"It has because in Social Studies, we have to read a lot of things so now that I am improving, I understand more and I'm doing better. I have a better attitude for my classes."

-- Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 1.

Status: Excellent progress; still in the program.

Would you recommend Read Right to someone else who needs help in reading?

"Read Right does help a lot and you can improve in everything you do because everything requires reading."

-- Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 2-3. Status: Completed/Graduated at Grade 8-9.

Has your self-confidence changed since you've been in Read Right? If so, how?

"Yes, by doing better and not getting teased any more by other people when they say that I can't read and I know I can."

-- Special Education Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 1.

Status: Excellent progress; still in the program.

Are there other ways the reading improvement has affected you?

"My goals have been set higher. I told my mom that I wanna be in the top 12 in high school and I want to go to different colleges than I ever imagined before."

-- Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 3-4. Status: Completed/Graduated at Grade 8-9.

"I am talking better."

-- English as Second Language Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 2-3.

Status: Completed/Graduated at a Grade 6-7 reading level.

Has improving your reading changed your attitude toward school?

"Yes, because I read in every subject and now I can make better grades understanding more clearly."

-- Student Starting Reading Level: Grade 2-3. Status: Completed/Graduated at Grade 8-9.

For more information about Richland Middle School's Read Right Program, contact Dr. Bartee directly at leeann.bartee@birdvilleschools.net, 817-547-4410. For more information about Read Right methodology and the Award of Excellence, contact Rhonda Stone at rhondas@readright.com, 360-427-9440.