

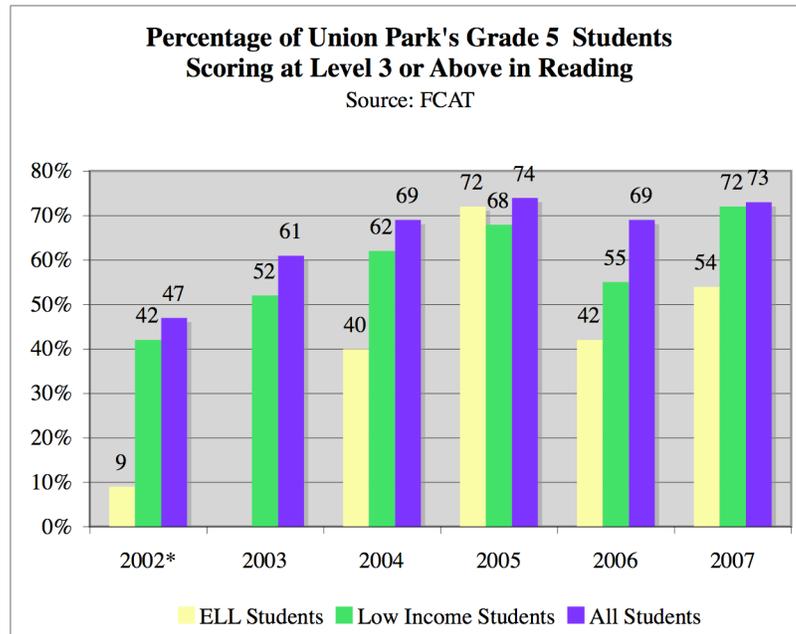


About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-5	African American:	9%
Number of Students:	700	Caucasian:	20%
Test(s):	FCAT	Hispanic:	63%
Reduced Price Lunch:	75%	Asian:	3%
		Other:	5%
		ELL:	35%



English Learners at Florida Elementary Excel With SRA's Imagine It!

As soon as students at Union Park Elementary School began experiencing SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* – the previous edition of *Imagine It!* – their reading scores began to rise, especially among English learners and low-income students. In 2007, English learners in Grade 4 and low-income students in Grade 5 attained record high scores on the Florida Comprehension Assessment Test (FCAT).



*Before *Open Court Reading* was added in Grades 3-5.
In 2003, there were not enough ELL students in Grade 3 or Grade 5 to report.

Open Court Reading began in Grades K–2 in fall 2001 and expanded to Grades 3–5 in fall 2002. *Imagine It!* began in Grades K–2 in fall 2007, expanding to Grades 3–5 in fall 2008.

Principal Kelly Pelletier said both programs work really well with all students, including those learning English.

“So many of the kids get confused when they speak English at school and Spanish at home,” she said. “Kindergarteners have the toughest time because they’ve only been exposed to Spanish in the early years. *Imagine It!* really helps them, though, because it is so explicit. For instance, our students really respond to the Sound/Spelling Cards because they understand a sound is attached to something that makes that sound, like “P” for popcorn popping. Our Grade 1 teachers are thrilled with their strong foundation.”





Jeanann Bradford, the school’s reading coach, remembered a specific “aha” moment that amazed her. “Grade 1 students were in the middle of an *Imagine It!* lesson,” she said. “We were changing ending sounds, so I wrote *rosebud* on the board and said I wanted to change it to *rosebuck*. One child said, ‘No problem. Just erase *d* and put *ck* at the end. Do you want to know why? That’s a short *u* and when you look at the Sound/Spelling Card, the green box means a short vowel sound.’ They just get it. By the time they move to Grades 4 and 5, all of this becomes routine. They become great spellers and have no problem decoding because they’ve had the foundation since Kindergarten.”

About Union Park Elementary School

Union Park Elementary School is in Orlando, Florida and part of the Orange County Public Schools. Serving approximately 700 students in Grades K–5, the school’s student population is 63% Hispanic, 20% Caucasian, 9% African American, 5% multicultural, and 3% Asian. Seventy-five percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 35% are English learners. To learn more about Union Park Elementary School, visit upe.ocps.net.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with *Imagine It!* in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.