



About the School:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| Grades: | K-12 |
| Number of Students: | 216 |
| Test(s): | DIBELS, Stanford-10 |
| Reduced Price Lunch: | N/A |

About the Students:

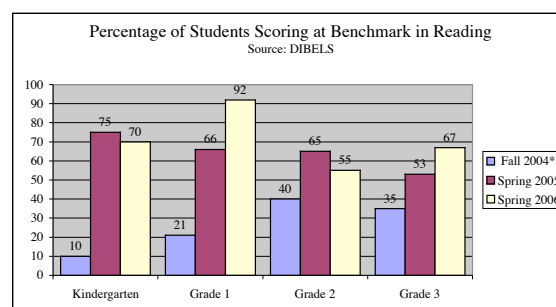
| | |
|-------------------|------|
| African American: | - |
| Caucasian: | - |
| Hispanic: | - |
| Asian: | - |
| Native American: | 100% |
| ELL | - |



Native American School Uses Reading First Grant to Implement Direct Instruction

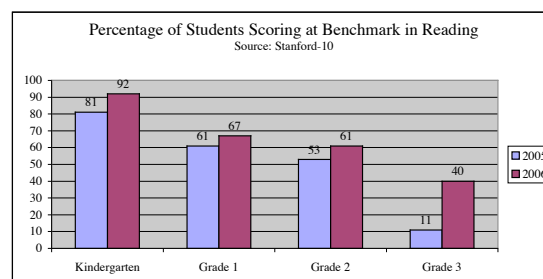
When educators at Nay Ah Shing School received a Reading First grant, they implemented SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Reading Mastery Plus* as their core reading program in Grades K-3 at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. Kindergarteners immediately embraced the program, and success continued in all grades, as exemplified by DIBELS and Stanford-10 scores.

School-wide, the percentage of students scoring at the Benchmark level on DIBELS jumped from 22% in fall 2004 to 69% in spring 2006, with help from *Reading Mastery Plus*. In both the 2004-2005 school year and the 2005-2006 school year, scores on DIBELS for each grade level jumps from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.



*Before *Reading Mastery Plus* began.

Reading Coach Tony Scheler said one of the reasons *Reading Mastery Plus* is so successful with students is because it keeps them focused. "Direct Instruction works at our school because it leaves nothing to chance," he said. "We're constantly monitoring, assessing, and re-grouping students to ensure they are exactly where they need to be."



Student success led educators to implement *Language for Learning*, another Direct Instruction program, with pre-school students at the start of the 2005-2006 school year. "By the time they begin Kindergarten, they are more than ready to sit and focus," he said. Most of them read by Halloween and move quickly into higher levels."

The Association of Direct Instruction (ADI) presented Nay Ah Shing School with the Wesley C. Becker Excellent School Award in 2006 for its effective implementation of *Reading Mastery Plus*. Becker was the senior founder of ADI, which provides training and assistance for schools in implementing Direct Instruction programs and behavioral practices.



Reading to Ride Camp

In addition to rigorous reading instruction during the school year, Nay Ah Shing School students get an additional 21 days of instruction during the summer.

Scheler started the Reading to Ride Camp on his farm during the summer of 2006 as a way to improve students' reading skills and encourage their love of reading. He plans to continue the camp each year and wrote the following synopsis after the first summer:

“As a reading coach I am continually trying to find ways to inspire children to read. When thinking of ways to inspire the students of Nay Ah Shing, I started to think of some of the inspirations in my life. At our farm we have horses and animals that are adored by our own children and me. What a better way to get children excited than to combine some of the important things in my life, like horses and

reading. I thought that children who have not been raised in the country would leap at the chance to ride horses and play with farm animals. Thanks to funding from Nay Ah Shing, the Reading to Ride Camp was developed.

“Students were picked up between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. everyday from their homes and bussed for a 45-minute ride to Avalon Acres for camp. When they arrived at the farm they ate breakfast and then started reading. Students were given 90 minutes a day of reading instruction. Students used *Reading Mastery Plus* and were able to continue from where they left off at the end of the year. Students were given instruction on picnic tables – sometimes in the barn or just outside the barn. Many times there were barn cats sitting on the table next to children as they read. Children would often rest their hands on the cats as they read through their story. The animals seemed to calm the children and keep them focused. The children knew that if they worked hard and finished their 90 minutes of reading, they could ride horses or play with the animals.

“After the students finished their reading lesson, they were given riding instruction for the first two weeks. The smiles and looks on their faces when they got up onto the horses' backs for the first time were priceless. A lot of the students would have ridden all morning if they had been given the chance.



Students enjoying their time at the Reading to Ride Camp.



“After riding and other activities, the students were fed lunch and were given books to read to their parents as homework. Many students brought back their homework everyday. Those that brought back their homework were given a horse-themed prize. Students were also given an opportunity to pick books that were donated to the camp for students to enjoy. Students were able to choose as many they wanted each day. Many of the students read the books that they picked out on the bus ride home. Some of the students would then go home and read the books to their siblings. Students left camp around 11:30 a.m. each day and arrived back home between 12:15-12:30 p.m.

“On the last day of camp, students were able to participate in a Fun Day celebration for completing the camp. After reading was completed, students participated in games. Some of the games that they played were Frisbee toss, bobbing for apples, sack race, and softball toss. Children received prizes for winning each event. Hot dogs on the barbeque and root beer floats were eaten before they went home. The students that attended camp seem to have had a great time reading, riding, playing with the animals, and playing games.

“All students invited to the Reading to Ride Camp were also invited to Summer Enrichment. In all, the students who attended camp and Summer Enrichment received an additional 21 days of reading instruction during the summer. The Reading to Ride Camp was a great experience and shows that there are many ways to inspire children to read.”

About Nay Ah Shing School

Serving roughly 216 Native American students in Grades K–12, this school is tribally operated by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

For More Information

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