

Title One Teachers:

Reading:

Meesa Long	6 th grade, Levels 1-2
Gordy Smith	6 th -8 th grade, Levels 1-2
Courran Bourne	6 th -8 th grade, Levels 2-3
Anne Kolibaba	6 th -8 th grade, Level 3, Read 180
Donna Sheets-Mathew	6 th -8 th grade, Level 3

Ten Facts about Title One

1. Title One is a program of the US government. The program sends money to schools with struggling readers. The money pays for teachers who are specialized in reading. It pays for smaller class sizes. It pays for materials such as computers and high-interest books written at a low reading level. It pays for trainings to improve the teachers' skills.
2. The goal of Title One is to help students learn the reading skills they need so they can be successful in their grade-level subjects.
3. A student is placed in a Title One class based on his/her scores on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (the OAKS test), as well as fluency testing and teacher recommendations.
4. The design of our program is based on research:
 - a. Leveled classes are a way to group students with the same reading level so they can learn the same missing skills. The books, instructional methods, and skills to be taught are matched to these students.
 - b. The small size of the class allows students to receive more attention from the teacher.
 - c. As students learn more skills, they rise up to the next level.
5. The instructional techniques used by our teachers are research-based. Teachers focus on the *five building blocks of literacy*: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The lowest levels of the program focus on letter sounds, basic fluency, and comprehension. The highest levels prepare students for challenging vocabulary and higher-level comprehension. All levels prepare students to think strategically about their learning, to "think about their thinking."
6. Students who earn a grade-level score on the OAKS test can exit the Title One program. In place of Title One classes, the student will take regular electives.

7. A Title One class:

- is small (10 students for Level 1, 20 students for Level 3);
- is led by a highly-qualified teacher;
- is a place to learn missing skills in reading or math;
- is a structured and organized place to learn;
- uses technology;
- uses texts that fit the reading level of the students;
- continually measures the students' growth;
- helps students become aware of their learning;
- is always changing as students grow in their reading or math.

8. At Reynolds Middle School, the students in the Title One program make the largest growth of any students on the OAKS test. The scores of an average student in a Title One reading class grow two grade levels in a single year.

9. Some students in Title One classes complain about missing an elective. However:

- Students can exit Title One classes as soon as they score at grade-level.
- Many students experience so much success in Title One that they are secretly grateful even if they complain about it.
- After a student leaves Title One, they usually do not need to return.
- A student's schedule usually has room for an elective and a Title One class.
- Last year, over 55% of the students were enrolled in Title One.

10. RMS faces challenges with Title One:

- Parent involvement
- Scheduling
- Getting ALL students to do grade-level work by the end of 8th grade
- A small number of students do not make gains.
- Technology problems

Communication:

Letters home:

- Course Syllabus
- Parent Compact
- Progress Report (4 ½ weeks)
- Report Cards (9 weeks)
- Test Scores
- Exit Letter
- Parent Assist (check your child's grades online! Call counselor for more info)
- Parent Nights (one per term)
- Spring Conferences
- Teacher Email (first_last@reynolds.k12.or.us)