Manheim Central
School District
Empowering Every Student,
Every Day,
To Achieve

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Manheim Central
Middle School

Our Novel Experience

The purpose of O.N.E. is to provide a unique, school wide experience that will put a book in the hands of every student while creating an environment that fosters a positive school community, increased academic motivation and reading comprehension.

This project is implemented by all teachers across all grade levels at the middle school, thus requiring teachers to share ideas and work as one team. This team approach sends a strong message to students that literacy is valued by all. O.N.E. provides projects that ensure all students will work at a level consistent with their maximum potential. Teachers develop scaffolding, flexible grouping as well as remediation and enrichment opportunities using the book.

Our middle school goal is to create a positive school community. The O.N.E. project gives the entire school community something to talk about! Students in all grades can engage in conversations about the book in various settings - on the bus, in the cafeteria, and walking through the hallways. This “book buzz” creates a common bond between students to unify all students in the school.

The success of the program will be measured foremost through the inclusion of all students and staff in the reading of the novel. Weekly trivia contests, read-alouds, and school-wide graphic representations of theme, characters, and other literary elements will highlight the entire school’s involvement in the program.

Within each classroom, teachers will conduct activities in accordance with their subject. These may be as simple as connecting events in a book to a current unit of study, or they may involve small-group book discussions and full process writing assignments. Projects to extend the meaning of the work will be implemented at all levels, and connection with the author of the work via letters or web based communication will be offered to the whole school.

The sincere hope of this project is to create a community of readers that will reach beyond the walls of our school building!
Celebrating the Love of Reading

Manheim Central Middle School consists of 900+ students in grades five through eight. In such a large building, with a wide range of ages, developing a sense of community can be a challenge. ONE was developed by a group of teachers to instill a sense of community through the love of reading.

Before the formal introduction of the book, visual clues are placed throughout the building to build anticipation and generate discussion.

At the kick-off assembly, each student discovers the title as the books are distributed. As an entire student body, the first chapter is read together.

Throughout the following month, different grade level students are paired as buddies to read and discuss.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This program has thrived with the involvement of individual community members, service organizations and commitments from businesses.

Their involvement extends well beyond monetary donations. They are also involved as guest readers for the kick-off assembly. Throughout the program, they also volunteer their time to read with children.

During the inaugural year of the program, their involvement was solicited. It didn’t take long for the excitement to spread like wildfire. Even though this is a spring activity, different organizations began to call in the fall to see if the book title had been selected!

CULMINATING ACTIVITIES

The entire school community is brought together at the conclusion of the program. The assembly is an interactive event and we have been blessed to have the opportunity to Skype with authors and illustrators. Students from each grade level ask pre-approved questions.

Books that have been selected as part of ONE:
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis