

RESOURCES FOR NEW TEACHERS

If you are a new elementary language arts teacher, you will find that your best resource is the Literacy Specialist in your building. In addition to other duties, such as monitoring the progress of struggling readers, helping oversee the Early Intervention program, and working with the principal to ensure effective instruction, the Literacy Specialist is responsible for staff development and the mentoring of new language arts teachers. The Literacy Specialist in your building will be contacting you during the first few days of school to help you get started.

You can reach me by calling 617 559-9090, sending an email, or dropping by the English office at the Education Center at 100 Walnut Street. We have a substantial collection of resources, including books and videos by leading authors and educators, curriculum documents and units, grade level benchmarks, and examination copies of trade books and instructional materials.

Along with the Literacy Specialist at each school, there are several Early Literacy Aides who work closely with classroom teachers to support literacy instruction in grades K-2. Also, if you teach in the primary grades, you will be working with Lisa Robinson, Newton's Early Childhood Coordinator, who, in addition to supervising the Early Intervention program, works closely with K-3 teachers across all subject areas, especially around issues pertaining to literacy.

If you are a new middle school English teacher, please contact me directly so that we can talk about curriculum and teaching expectations, and make sure that you are partnered with an experienced English teacher at your grade level. The Literacy Specialist at your school serves both as a reading specialist responsible for working with students and as a coach and teacher trainer. He /she is a great source of practical knowledge and will undoubtedly be able to assist you in a number of ways.