

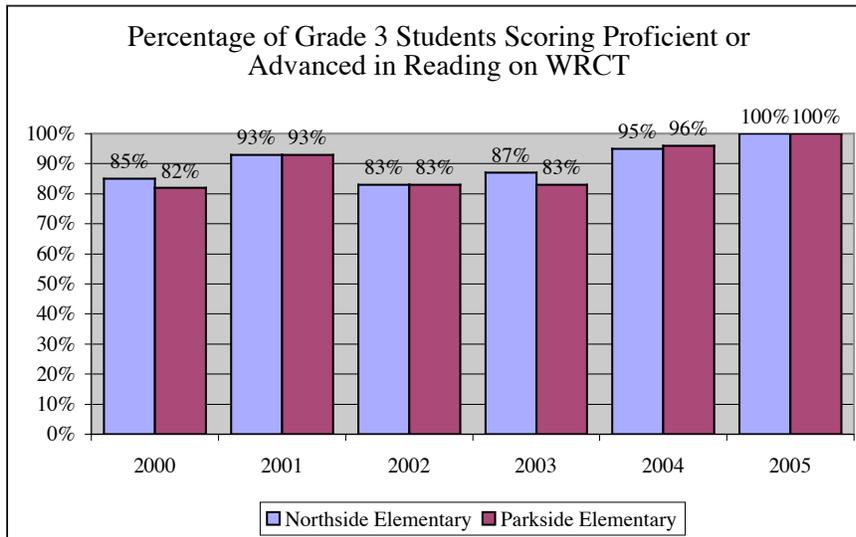


About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-5	African American:	2% / 3%
Number of Students:	339 / 358	Caucasian:	95% / 93%
Test(s):	WRCT	Hispanic:	3% / 3%
Reduced Price Lunch:	15% / 30%	Asian:	-
		Other:	0% / 1%
		ELL:	-



All Grade 3 Students in Two Monroe, Wisconsin Elementary Schools Score Proficient or Advanced in Reading

Every single Grade 3 student in two elementary schools within the Monroe School District scored Proficient or Advanced on the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT) in 2005. Their principals believe that part of the overwhelming success can be attributed to a Direct Instruction program from SRA/McGraw-Hill called *Reading Mastery*, which is used with at-risk and special education students at the two schools. Because these students must be considered the same as general education students for testing purposes under No Child Left Behind, the fact that they passed reading standards on the WRCT helped ensure the entire grade met state standards.



Implementing the Strongest Program

Teachers at Parkside Elementary School implemented *Reading Mastery* with at-risk and special education students in Grades 1-5 in the mid-1990s. The program was added to Kindergarten at the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

Now about one-third to one-half of students in each grade experience *Reading Mastery* every day.

Principal Jim Brunette said the program works well in his school. “*Reading Mastery* is a proven, research-based reading program that really helps struggling readers. It works well in K-2 because it is sequential and phonics-based, which helps students sound out words and read aloud. Once they begin reading, we work with them in Grades 3-5 to help them comprehend what they read,” Brunette said.



Brunette added that professional development is key to successfully implementing the program. “With terrific trainers, teachers understand the importance of adhering to the program. If you adhere to the program, the results are consistent and positive,” he said.

Northside Elementary School teachers also adopted *Reading Mastery* in Grades 1-5 with at-risk and special education students in the mid-1990s. The program has been used in Kindergarten for several years.

Principal Cory Hirsbrunner said *Reading Mastery* works beautifully with her students. “Children experience the program in the morning and very often get a double dose in the afternoon. Their parents are thrilled with their success and love the reading instruction portion of the program as much as the students do,” she said.

Hirsbrunner also said parents know exactly what is expected of their children at home each night. “Parents have completely bought into this program. We even have parents of children who don’t experience *Reading Mastery* ask us if their kids can be part of the process,” she said.

Hirsbrunner began her career as a Grade 3 teacher at Parkside Elementary School, under the leadership of Brunette. “I worked closely with Reading Specialist Maggie Rufi to implement *Reading Mastery*,” she said. “We taught as a team, which was very helpful to me as a new teacher because she is a great reading coach. Once I saw students progress at incredible rates, I learned to love the program as much as the kids. *Reading Mastery* made me a better teacher in all subject areas. Now as a principal, I deal occasionally with staff members who are reluctant to use the program, but I can tell them they will be amazed to watch their students blossom and become good readers.”

About Northside Elementary School

Serving 339 students in Grades Pre-K-5, this school’s student population is 95% Caucasian, 3% Hispanic, and 2% African American. Fifteen percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches. For more information about Northside Elementary School, visit www.monroeschools.com/schools/northside.

About Parkside Elementary School

Serving 358 students in Grades Pre-K-5, this Title I school’s student population is 93% Caucasian, 3% Hispanic, 3% African American, and 1% Native American. Thirty percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. For more information about Parkside Elementary School, visit www.monroeschools.com/schools/parkside.

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**.
