

# Results with

# **Imagine It!**

**Reading takes you places**

***Imagine It!* is a research-based, comprehensive Pre-K–6 reading and language arts program. It has a proven instructional model built on decades of research and field testing.**

**Its foundational program, *Open Court Reading*, demonstrates that instruction based on tested, research-based practices gets results. Year after year, the achievement of students with the program has been exceptional on state-mandated tests, national standardized tests, district tests, and many other specific measures.**

## Ohio School Becomes District Leader in Reading

In just a few years, Hale Road Elementary School transformed itself from a low-performing school to a district leader in reading scores. The percentage of Grade 4 students passing the reading portion of the Ohio Achievement Test jumped from 74% in 2002, before *Open Court Reading* began, to 88% the following year. By 2007, that increased to 96%. The success has been so great that school officials are upgrading to *Imagine It!* one grade level at a time, beginning with Kindergarten in fall 2007.

Because of these high scores, Hale Road Elementary School has achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) every year it has been measured in Ohio. The state also rates schools on student achievement – Excellent, Effective, Continuous Improvement, Academic Watch, or Academic Emergency. In addition to achieving AYP for multiple years, Hale Road Elementary has received a rating of Excellent since *Open Court Reading* began.

Educators piloted *Open Court Reading* in Grade 1 during the 2000–2001 school year after teachers complained their current reading curriculum didn't challenge students. Principal Jack Miley said reading scores were low then, and teachers hoped the new program would help students succeed on the state assessment.

When the program was adopted in Kindergarten, Miley challenged the Kindergarten teachers to ensure all students read before they left at the end of the school year. "We didn't know if it was possible," he said. "Now the majority begins reading by January and enters Grade 1 with strong reading skills."

### For more information:

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"Teachers loved *Open Court Reading* immediately because of its phonics base. And they feel the same about *Imagine It!*"

– Principal Jack Miley

### About Hale Road Elementary School

- Located 25 miles east of Cleveland on Lake Erie
- Serves more than 360 children from low to middle-income homes in Grades K–5
- 93% are Caucasian and 3% are multicultural
- 32% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

### Percentage of Hale Road Elementary School's Grade 4 Students Passing Reading

Source: Ohio Achievement Test



\*Results after one year with *Open Court Reading*.

## School Uses Open Court Reading Successfully for Nearly 40 Years

In 1970, educators at Gulliver Academy chose *Open Court Reading* for the private school's students in Grades 1–4 and transitioned to *Imagine It!* in fall 2007. Since the original adoption, students have consistently scored far above the national average (50th percentile) in reading. For example, Gulliver Academy Grade 1 students ranked in the 98th percentile compared to all other students nationwide in 2007 on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

The Academy's diverse population includes students from Africa, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Canada, and the United States. Patricia Martello, Principal of the Academy's Lower School, said, "*Imagine It!* is as diverse as our students."

In addition to scoring well on the ITBS, Academy students also succeed on the STAR Early Literacy assessment. "This is significant," Martello said. "Especially when you consider that one first grader began the year reading on a Kindergarten level. After one year with the program, she improved two grade levels. There's no doubt that *Open Court Reading* was a huge part of her success."

When Grade 1 students take the STAR in September of each year, they usually score at 1.0 (Grade 1, month 0). When they take the test the following September, after one year with the program, their average score is 2.04 (Grade 2, month 4).

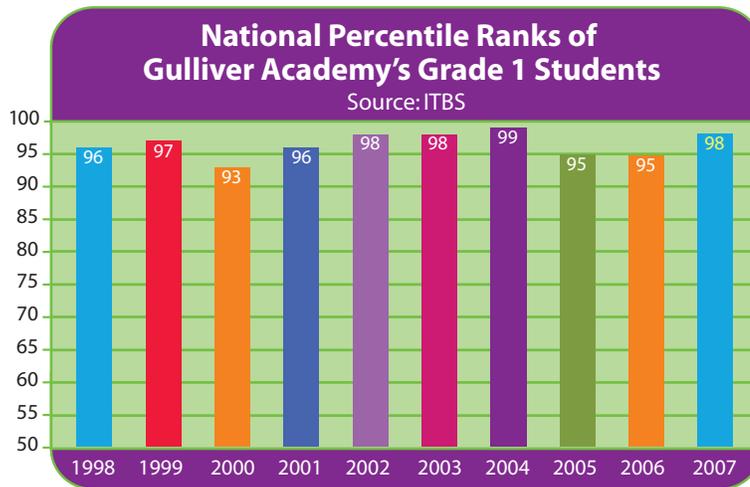
Academy teachers adopted *Imagine It!* in fall 2007. Martello said she and her colleagues appreciated the support SRA/McGraw-Hill provided during the transition. "We will continue to strive for excellence in teaching this program as well," she said. "The systematic, explicit instructional plan helps us build upon student's individual abilities through a logical progression of skills. In addition, core concepts are reinforced at every level to scaffold the foundation for our students' most critical reading and comprehension skills."

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"We especially like the totally integrated language approach. We use Sound/Spelling Cards because they are action-oriented, as are children. They also support the strong phonics strand and really help students with recall."

  
— Principal  
Patricia Martello



\**Open Court Reading* began in 1970. Gulliver Academy consistently scores far above the national average (50th percentile) in reading.

### About Gulliver Academy

- Founded in 1927, Gulliver Academy is one of the oldest private schools in Miami-Dade County
- It serves more than 1,000 students in Pre-K–8 from approximately 50 countries

## Students with Disabilities Attain Reading Proficiency

Nearly one-quarter of all students at Bonneville Elementary School participate in exceptional student education (ESE). Their exceptionalities vary widely in severity, yet each one has achieved reading proficiency levels as measured by Adequate Yearly Progress since 2005. Dr. Kimberly Bias, Principal, credits SRA/McGraw-Hill's reading programs, a "Dream Team" staff, hard working students, and involved parents.

*Open Court Reading* has been the school's core reading program for all students in Grades Pre-K-5 since fall 2002 with the implementation of *Imagine It!* beginning fall 2008 in Grades 3-5.

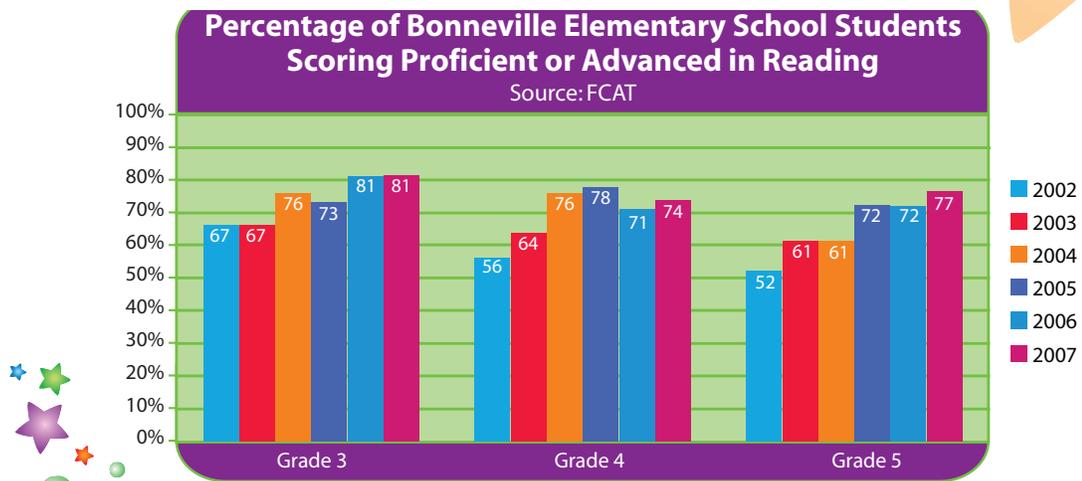
While reading success is now prevalent at Bonneville Elementary School, this wasn't the case before *Open Court Reading* was implemented. In fact, only 52% of Grade 5 students scored Proficient or Advanced in reading on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in 2002. By 2007, 77% attained that same level, an increase of 25 percentage points. In addition, the state of Florida has continuously awarded the school an "A" grade since the adoption.

The mobility rate at Bonneville Elementary School is fairly high: 29%. Dr. Bias said progress monitoring helps target these new students as quickly as possible. "Some children need more intervention than others, but we know these structured, systematic programs will get them up to speed," she said.

Immediately upon walking through the doors of Bonneville Elementary School, students are given a DIBELS assessment, and depending on the results, a placement test for specific academic programs to meet their individual needs. "We maximize every opportunity for learning without a single moment to spare."

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To see this school in action, visit [SRAonline.com](http://SRAonline.com), click on The Pride of SRA, and select Bonneville Elementary's video.



*Open Court Reading* was implemented in fall 2002. *Imagine It!* will begin in Fall 2008. Grade 4 students within the district and state experienced decreased FCAT scores in 2006. State scores decreased from 72 to 66 and district scores decreased from 70 to 63.

### About Bonneville Elementary School

- Serving approximately 600 students in Grades Pre-K-5, this school's population is 50% Caucasian, 37% Hispanic, 7% multicultural, and 6% African American
- 55% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- 18% are classified as English learners
- 25% are eligible for exceptional student education services

"We are excited for the new stories, workshops, prescriptions for differentiated instruction, and even more specific instructions for phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and the Question/Concept Board."

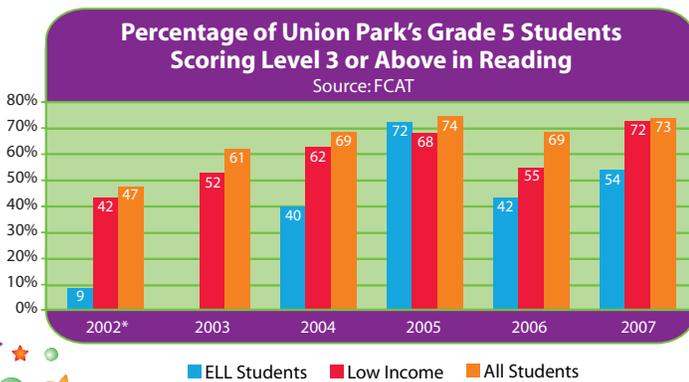
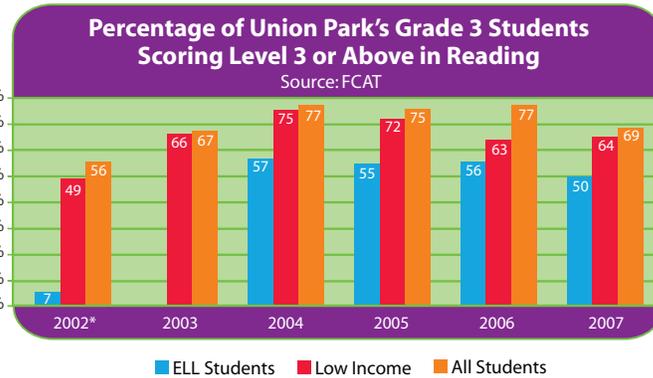


— Dr. Kimberly V. Bias, Principal

## English Learners Excel with Imagine It!

As soon as students at Union Park Elementary School began experiencing SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading*, their reading scores began to rise, especially among English learners and low-income students. In 2007, English learners in Grade 4 and low-income students in Grade 5 attained record high scores on the Florida Comprehension Assessment Test (FCAT).

*Open Court Reading* began in Grades K–2 in fall 2001 and expanded to Grades 3–5 in fall 2002. *Imagine It!* began in Grades K–2 in fall 2007, expanding to Grades 3–5 in fall 2008.



\*Before *Open Court Reading* was added in Grades 3-5. In 2003, there were not enough ELL students in Grade 3 or Grade 5 to report.

Principal Kelly Pelletier said both programs work really well with all students, including those learning English.

"So many of the kids get confused when they speak English at school and Spanish at home," she said. "Kindergartners have the toughest time because they've only been exposed to Spanish in the early years. *Imagine It!* really helps them, though, because it is so explicit. For instance, our students really respond to the Sound/Spelling Cards because they understand a sound is attached to something that makes that sound, like 'P' for popcorn popping. Our Grade 1 teachers are thrilled with their strong foundation."

Jeanann Bradford is the school's reading coach. She remembered a specific "aha" moment that amazed her: "Grade 1 students were in the middle of an *Imagine It!* lesson," she said. "We were changing ending sounds, so I wrote *rosebud* on the board and said I wanted to change it to *rosebuck*. One child said, 'No problem. Just erase *d* and put *ck* at the end. Do you want to know why? That's a short *u* and when you look at the Sound/Spelling Card, the green box means a short vowel sound.' They just get it. By the time they move to Grades 4 and 5, all of this becomes routine. They become great spellers and have no problem decoding because they've had the foundation since Kindergarten."

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"*Imagine It!* really helps English learners because it is so explicit. Our teachers are thrilled with students' strong foundation."

— Jeanann Bradford, Reading Coach

### About Union Park Elementary School

- Serving approximately 700 students in Grades K–5, this school's student population is 63% Hispanic, 20% Caucasian, 9% African American, 5% multicultural, and 3% Asian
- 75% of children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- 35% are English learners



# Imagine It!

Reading takes you places

*The Imagine It! reading and language arts program is proven to achieve high test scores and positive results:*

- *Hale Road Elementary School, Painesville, OH*
- *Gulliver Academy, Coral Gables, FL*
- *Bonneville Elementary School, Orlando, FL*
- *Union Park Elementary School, Orlando, FL*

*Making the Difference*<sup>SM</sup>

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[ImagineltReading.com](http://ImagineltReading.com)

