DEEP READING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Second Annual Summer Literacy Institute

Registration and Check-In, Continental Breakfast

8:15 a.m. – Student Union, third floor, Ballroom

Welcome: Center for Structured Literacy and Akron Public Schools

9:00 a.m. – Student Union, third floor, Ballroom

Keynote: Dr. Maryanne Wolf, UCLA

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – Student Union, third floor, Ballroom

Reading in a Digital World: Cultivating Connection, Comprehension & Critical Thought

- Digital reading is changing the way we think, learn, and connect—for better and for worse. Join best-selling author Maryanne Wolf, author of Reader, Come Home, for an engaging and thought-provoking keynote on the development of the deep reading brain, the effects of screen-based reading on our appreciation of beauty and empathy, and the vital role of critical thinking and reflection in navigating today's digital age.

Breakout Session 1

10:50 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. – Student Union, third floor

DR. MARYANN WOLF, UCLA (ROOM 312)

A Dialogue on Deep Reading in a Digital World with Dr. Maryanne Wolf: Your Questions Answered

- Dialogue is one of the most fertile forms of communication. From Socrates to Proust, evoking our thoughts in dialogue with the author (or in this case, the speaker) sharpens and expands our own thoughts. St Thomas Aquinas describes this as when "iron sharpens iron." In this spirit the breakout session with Dr Wolf will be a dialogue that continues her presentation through your own thoughts and questions.
- Appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

OLIVIA WEISMAN AND LIESL HUENEMANN, ODEW (ROOM 316)

From Adoption to Impact: Systemic High Quality Instructional Materials Implementation for Literacy Success

- Adopting High-Quality Instructional Materials is only the first step. This session explores practical systems that move literacy curriculum from adoption to impact. Participants will examine an implementation roadmap, engage in unit unpacking, and apply collaborative strategies that strengthen fidelity, coherence, and instructional consistency.
- Appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

DR. REBECCA TOLSON, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON (ROOM 308)

Structured Literacy 101: Building Strong Readers with Evidence-Based Strategies

- Ready to transform how you teach reading? This interactive session will introduce you to Structured Literacy, a powerful approach grounded in the Science of Reading designed to support all learners–especially those with dyslexia. This session explores the key principles of instructional content that integrate the domains of language and the essential principles of instruction that guide how content is taught for reading and writing. Walk away with actionable strategies to implement Structured Literacy in the classroom.
- This session is appropriate for intervention tutors/specialists, K-12 teachers and administrators.

BETH REUSSER AND BEN REUSSER, SENSIBLE LEARNING (ROOM 310)

The Student Behind Their Profile, Their Numbers and Beyond

- You're handed a new student file in the fall, you only know part of the story. Are you looking at the whole child or just the numbers? We'll gain a basic understanding of these specific test scores and meet the person behind the profile and hear about his educational journey.
- This session is appropriate for all teachers, reading specialists, and coaches.

DR. TOAN DANG-NGUYEN, KIM NAGY, SHARON PISKUR, AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BALLROOM C-D)

Reading and Writing in a Digital World: Strengthening Literacy Across K-12

- This professional learning session explores how digital environments are shaping students' reading and writing development across K–12 classrooms. Participants will examine common literacy challenges that emerge in a digital context and gain practical, evidence-based strategies to strengthen both reading and writing instruction.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

MIJA TRAMMELL, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON (BALLROOM E)

Targeting Foundational Processes to Support Reading Comprehension

- Reading comprehension is not a single skill—it is the result of multiple cognitive processes working together. For students with dyslexia, weaknesses in executive function can limit comprehension even when decoding is accurate. This session explores how working memory overload, reduced attentional control, and inefficient self-monitoring affect understanding. Participants will learn how three foundational processes—**AIM:** Automaticity, Imagination/Visualization, and Metacognition—support deep comprehension and provide a practical framework for strengthening reading comprehension in students with dyslexia.
- This session is appropriate for those teaching in K-8 environments.

ERIC CURTS, CONTROL ALT ACHIEVE (ROOM 335)

Gemini Gems for Literacy, Reading, Writing & Language

- Gems are reusable, custom prompts that save your best AI workflows for instant access, and they are a game-changer for educators! In this session we will explore practical Gems specific for literacy, reading, writing and language to see how they can be used for teaching and learning. Gems we will try out may include Decodable Texts, Discussion Prompts, Poem Writing Coach, RAFT Writing Prompts, Reader's Theater, Reading Level Analyzer, Story Co-Writer, Text-dependent Questions, Text Rewriter, Vocabulary List, Vocabulary Tiers and more.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

Lunch and Visit Vendors

11:50 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Breakout Session 2

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. – Student Union, third floor

LAMONICA DAVIS, AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ROOM 312)

Creating a Culture of Literacy and Achievement

- In this session, you will learn how a principal worked with staff and support personnel to create a culture of literacy using structured literacy practices to create success for students and staff.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

EMILY O'DELL, CYNTHIA FALKENBURG, DR. LOI DANG-NGUYEN, AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ROOM 316)

The Science of Writing in Action: Transforming Students into Confident, Independent Writers

- This professional development introduces thinkSRSD and the POWER writing cycle, equipping teachers with practical, classroom-ready strategies to support all learners. Participants will explore the components of self-regulated strategy development in writing and analyze real student work and progress data to strengthen writing instruction through explicit teaching and gradual release.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

KELSI EDRINGTON, ODEW (ROOM 308)

Literacy Within Ohio's Integrated MTSS Framework

- Develop a deeper understanding of literacy within Ohio's Integrated multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework. Explore how high-quality instruction, assessment, tiered supports, and team-based decision-making work together to create coherent systems that improve literacy outcomes and ensure every student receives the support they need to succeed.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

DR. LINDSEY ROUSH AND DR. DAVID BROBECK, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI (ROOM 310)

Fluency Fundamentals: The What, Why, and How of Fluency

- This presentation explores the what, why, and how of reading fluency for students in grades K–5. Participants will learn what reading fluency is and how its key components—accuracy, rate, and prosody—support student success. The session explains why fluency is critical for developing strong Reading Comprehension and overall reading confidence. Educators will also explore practical, classroom-ready strategies to build fluency, including modeled reading, repeated reading, and guided practice. By the end, teachers will gain actionable tools to support young readers in becoming more fluent, engaged, and successful readers.
- This session is appropriate for teachers, PK-6, coaches and reading specialists.

DR. MICHELLE ELIA, MARIETTA COLLEGE (BALLROOM C-D)

Magnificent Morphemes: Morphological Awareness for Reading & Writing Success

- Morphemes are building blocks of meaning, but they also offer significant insight into spelling and syntax. Ultimately, morphological awareness improves reading comprehension and written expression. Instruction of these magnificent structures can be incorporated into any content area. This session will review the basics of morphology and provide ideas for explicit instruction to build morphological awareness through decoding, vocabulary, and syntax instruction. Spoiler alert: It's not about memorizing morphemes!
- This session is appropriate for intermediate, middle and high school teachers, reading specialists, coaches and administrators.

DR. SARAH COOEY, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON (BALLROOM E)

Research to Practice: The Latest in Phonemic Awareness and Phonics

- This session explores the latest research on phonemic awareness and phonics, clarifying the critical distinctions between these foundational literacy skills and their role in Structured Literacy. Participants will learn why explicit, systematic, cumulative, and data-driven instruction is essential, particularly for students with dyslexia and other reading challenges. The session highlights current evidence-based practices, including speech-to-print instruction, effective phonemic awareness routines, word building, decodable text instruction, and the integration of handwriting and spelling. Through practical examples and downloadable resources, participants will leave with research-informed tools and instructional routines they can immediately implement to strengthen literacy outcomes for all learners.
- This session is appropriate for teachers, PK-3.

ERIC CURTS, CONTROL ALT ACHIEVE (ROOM 335)

From Concept to Comic: Making Graphic Novels with Gemini and NotebookLM

- Graphic novels can be a great way to engage students in content. In this hands-on session, we will explore a creative workflow using Gemini and NotebookLM to turn simple ideas into professional-looking graphic novels. Attendees will view finished examples and walk through the entire process: brainstorming topics, selecting art styles, and generating formatted scripts using a custom Gemini Gem. We will also cover how to write scripts manually for staff and students who want total creative control. Finally, we'll use NotebookLM to generate and share downloadable PDF versions of our creations.
- This session is appropriate for all audiences, all grade levels.

Snack and Break

1:50 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Feature Presentation

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Student Union, third floor, Ballroom | All attendees

DR. TIM ODEGARD AND DR. MEGAN GIERKA, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Science of Learning, Structured Literacy, and AI

- We know what to teach, but we know less about how our students learn. This session grounds structured literacy in the science of learning, then puts AI to work on the practice problem. You'll see how AI-generated text, aligned to word frequency and your curriculum's scope and sequence, gives students connected reading practice across the instructional hierarchy. We'll frame the work with the IDA's AI guidelines and Maryanne Wolf's case for deep reading. While the tools are powerful, teachers always stay in charge of the student learning experience.

Drawings and Contact Hour Certificates

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

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Continental Breakfast

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Ohio Chapter

Afternoon Refreshments

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