

Korematsu Middle School—North West Contra Costa USD

Location: North Central South

County: Contra Costa County

Demographics: Suburban with typical urban school characteristics

Exemplar Area:
Strategies for Reading

Contact:
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Strengths:

- Department meetings driven by student work samples
- Teacher to teacher coaching and support

Struggles:

- Lack of resources
- Teacher turn over

Summary:

Korematsu Middle School has adopted IRIS Module strategies to implement instruction and the Accelerated Reader Diagnostic as a screening tool to determine student's strength and weakness. Teachers have become creative in obtaining text sources to keep Language Arts instruction interesting, as well as providing purpose and assessment feedback to the students. Due to implementation of Project READ, students with the lowest reading ability have experienced significant reading growth. Student data and work samples have been used in staff collaborations to discuss next steps, norm grading, and teacher to teacher coaching.

Advice for Success:

1. By having teachers observe and support one another, teaching practices improve and adjust to the needs of the students.