

K-12 Education Administration Promotes Morning Reading Program in Elementary and Junior High Schools, Receives Recognition for MSSR and Book Chat Programs

(Courtesy of Hsin-Chan Chen, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



Lifelong learning is a core goal in the Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education. For this reason, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has been promoting the Morning Reading Program, which uses the concept of Modeled Sustained Silent Reading (MSSR) to cultivate students' interest in reading and help them construct broader knowledge bases. The 'M' in MSSR means that principals and teachers serve as models for students by establishing a culture of reading in schools. Teachers not only guide students to do a great amount of reading, but also extend the activity to parents by inviting them to read with their children. In the 2021-2022 school year, 45 junior high schools and 79 elementary schools participated in the program—124 schools altogether. More than 2,000 classes and 60,000 students practiced MSSR, which received recognition from teachers, students, and parents.

Kaohsiung Municipal Wun-Fu Junior High School has been participating in the Morning Reading Program for three years, and has promoted reading by setting up class book boxes, having the principal and teachers read with students in class, providing book recommendations,

and holding a book recommendation competition for seventh-grade students. These activities have cultivated the reading habits of teachers and students and broadened students' horizons. In Hsinchu County, teachers at Shi-Hsing Elementary School have served as models by reading with their students every morning, and use a Chinese and English book box, which rotates weekly, to expand students' reading breadth. In addition, the school has set up a Parent-Child Autumn Reading Program for incoming 1st-grade students to immerse themselves in a pleasant reading atmosphere along with their parents and teachers. They also promote a Partner Reading Program within the school's common spaces, encouraging children in higher grades to chat about books with their younger schoolmates.

Meanwhile, the comprehensive MSSR program at Sin Cheng Elementary School in Nantou County is entering its fourth year. During the pandemic, the school supplied a large number of books to students through its Sin Cheng Book Drive-Thru, which helped keep up students' reading interests and habits. In addition, the school held online reading sessions for students in grades four and above during their morning reading time every Friday. This allowed students to get exposed to different fields and life contexts through standalone texts and series on a platform that integrates reading competencies, cultivating students' abilities to retrieve, analyze, compare, and integrate information, as well as think and ask questions. Sin Cheng Elementary School received recognition in 2021 through the Ministry of Education's annual Reading Rock Award.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that by having teachers read with their students, students would form reading habits and "catch the reading bug," becoming lifelong readers and learners. For every child, reading can lead to success.