

Make “Reading” the Most Beautiful Scene in the Community

Recognizing and Sharing of the Most Beautiful Co-Reading Stations

(Courtesy of Bang-Min Yu at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)



The Ministry of Education has continued to promote the reading atmosphere and subsidized senior high, vocational, junior high, and elementary schools to set up the “School Community Collaborative Reading Station.” With the four-year project that runs from 2017 to 2020, 749 schools in 22 cities and counties and have been reviewed, and approved to be eligible. At present, 299 schools have completed and launched their co-reading stations. The Ministry of Education also held a review and selection event of the "most beautiful co-reading station;" a total of 18 schools received the award of excellence. The achievements presentation and awards ceremony were held on September 11, 2019, with the aim of providing each school with a better model of the co-reading station to emulate, enabling "co-reading" and aesthetics to be more common and visible.

The K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education pointed out that to assist public schools at all educational levels to set up their “school community co-reading stations,” it has subsidized senior high, vocational, junior, and elementary schools to enliven their existing

libraries or spare spaces, not only allowing the schools' faculty and staff to have an easier access to reading but opening up the schools' doors, thereby creating a learning atmosphere in the community and attracting residents in the community to access public book resources. As such, students, their parents, and local people have further increased their willingness and tendency to read, and the goals of closing the urban-rural learning gap and promoting co-reading among different age groups have also been achieved. In addition, through the introduction of the sense of aesthetics, each school may also feature a reading station unique to its own.

This review and selection event of the "most beautiful co-reading station" was undertaken based on the four criteria, namely "spatial planning," "aesthetics development," "co-reading promotion," and "sustainable management;" a total of 18 schools were selected for the award of excellence. These award-winning schools have not only integrated local elements but also focused their attention on the selection of materials and colors, utilizing each small detail to create different reading atmospheres. For example, the sofa reading area set up by the Ren-Wu Elementary School in Kaohsiung City has created a cozy reading atmosphere; the stairs reading area established by the Hua-Nan Elementary School in Changhua County has enlivened the reading space; the reading area by the windows at the Ligang Elementary School in Pingtung County has added a tone of relaxation and comfort for reading; the Miaoli County Chimin Junior High School has integrated the local element of red bricks into the main body of its reading station, which has added a sense of familiarity to reading.

In addition to the high-quality reading space, sustainable management and co-reading promotion strategies are among the musts. Many schools have become the center of community reading, and continue to hold a variety of parent-child reading events and activities, including Changhua County Guang-Xing Elementary School's parent-child English picture book reading, art and cultural exhibitions at the Situn Elementary School in Taichung City, the Miaoli County Chimin Junior High School's community parents reading club, parent education seminars held at the Nei-Pu Primary School in Chiayi County, handicraft workshops held by the Nanyang Elementary School in Kaohsiung City, and the community calligraphy class offered at the Taichung Municipal Anhe Junior High School, among others, so as to provide a variety of learning methods. As such, different generations can enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of reading together.

For the 18 schools that have been recognized for the award of excellence at this achievements presentation, each of the senior high/ vocational schools can receive a subsidy of NT\$600,000 for its reading station, while each of the junior high/elementary schools a subsidy of NT\$200,000 for their budget for books. In addition, for the top three local governments with the most schools short-listed for this review and selection event, namely Education Bureau of Kaohsiung City Government, Education Bureau of Taichung City Government, and Chiayi County Government, the K-12 Education Administration would add a library subsidy of NT\$2 million in the year of 2020 to reward these excellent schools and local governments for their endeavor made to their co-reading stations.

The K-12 Education Administration stressed that there would be no fixed form, nor end, for the promotion of co-reading. Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, presented the award of excellence to these schools in person to recognize their efforts; meanwhile, these schools' achievements will be compiled into a book and a video clip to promote the co-reading station, and the video clip would be posted by the award-winning schools on their Facebook pages. It is hoped that more people will see the beauty of reading and that reading will be brought closer to you and me through the promotion of the co-reading station.