

Seitsinger tells school committee about positive effects



Strategies at Tiogue School making science transition a success

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COVENTRY — Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger is excited about the innovative learning strategies educators are utilizing to improve students' performance with the focus on blended learning.

Blended learning is an effort to incorpo-

Coventry School Committee Vice Chair David Florio gets a look at some of Tiogue Elementary School student Sophia Sigma's work earlier this week.

Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

rate the use of technology into instruction across the curriculum.

"This is the year of application of blended learning for all," Seitsinger said. "We have so many strategies in place — including ongoing reading and math progress screening, a math program called IXL, which kids can access from home or in the classroom along with reading, writing, math and science academies, all after school"

She also explained how progress for many students has taken place through various types of intervention through the Response to Intervention Team — especially in areas like reading, personal literacy plans

and math.

"Another tool we have is called Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)," she explained. "Which is a training for teachers that tracks a student's fluency, accuracy and comprehension skills where the teacher can use that information and focus on the weaker areas for that child."

Another strategy is the Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) for Reading, which allows students to work together to help them with their fluency and comprehension.

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Tiogue having success with blended learning programs

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One major aspect of the positive impact of the programs in place Seitsinger pointed out through grades kindergarten to fifth grade were the improvements for early literacy, reading and math.

Students in kindergarten increased skills between fall and winter from 48 to 59 percent.

And in first through fifth grade, in reading and math, students improved by double percent points.

Erin Wright, professional development coordinator for both Tiogue and Blackrock Elementary Schools, explained another portion of Tiogue's education strategy relating to Rhode Island College.

"This year, Tiogue has had the opportunity to

participate in the first year of a three-year training at the Paul Sherlock Center on a Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)," she said.

She said MTSS is a management between Response to Intervention and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, two systems the school has been implementing for quite some time.

"Tiogue's faculty came to the group consensus and agreed to participate," Wright explained. "Our one-year focus is learning how to strengthen our core tier One instruction by looking at our building data in behavior and academic areas. Ultimately, we hope to share our work with the other schools. Our district leadership is receiving training as well, on how we can best expand this learning across the district."