WONDERS by McGraw Hill

Reading and Literacy Program Grades K-4

Quick Summary and Overview

| Wonders Overview |
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*Wonders* is designed based on the Science of Reading to foster a love of reading in all children. This focus on the Science of Reading is a primary difference between Wonders 2013, which was the version Jordan Elementary was using. Wonders 2020 focuses on the newest research and phonics awareness based on research efficacy.

By providing a comprehensive set of connected resources for all learners in grades K–4, *Wonders* offers elementary school educators the ability to adapt and differentiate instruction with confidence as students grow. Wonders’ focus on teaching the whole child—and every child—prepares students to be lifelong learners and critical thinkers. Combining the work of literacy experts with research on social emotional learning, *Wonders* helps teachers strengthen skills, bolster learning, and encourage independence, enhancing the important and inspiring work done in elementary school classrooms, every day.

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):** Wonders integrates SEL in the curriculum through partnering with Sesame Workshop and focusing on the proven CASEL framework to provide an integrated approach to SEL in the curriculum. For more information on the Wonder’s SEL Focus, please read the McGraw Hill [SEL Information Brochure](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HZ5G_L1Qo_lIgJ1pCqdk0EP7wY3NNTKh/view?usp=sharing).

**Educational Equity:** Wonders also supports Educational Equity, (*this is completely different from Critical Race Theory*), in making sure every learner receives a high-quality education. Equity can be considered the driving force behind ensuring that all students, everywhere, receive rigorous, rich educational experiences that are designed to meet their specific learning needs -- developing, on level, and advanced -- ensuring all students grow and excel. An equitable classroom is one where support is provided to *all* students as they learn rigorous academics.

**McGraw Hill Resources:** Please review the Wonders brochure provided by McGraw Hill for more in-depth information and research about the program in general -- [Wonders 2020 Brochure](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GSNhAQryWD8TOcrzh2H50ji2hevYP8ul/view?usp=sharing). Wonders uses research-proven instruction and best practices to help students grow as readers, writers, and critical thinkers. To read about the research studies and success stories for Wonders see the [ESSA Evidence for Wonders](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R2quaOkFWoMcUMUBBE0gHmusPB9DczkD/view?usp=sharing) and [Wonders Efficacy and Success](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b0iiik0jdDVkhTSLVzvHhAs_kKxvP-gJ/view?usp=sharing) brochures provided by McGraw Hill. This research includes:

* Independent efficacy studies
* Testimonials from a wide range of districts
* Educator perception survey

**Jordan Elementary Instructional Goal:** Implement the 2020 Wonders curriculum, which signifies a move from more of a *Balanced Literacy* approach to a model based on the *Science of Reading*, including a stress on phonics awareness at the foundational level.

| Curriculum Update Background |
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Jordan Elementary School implemented the WONDERS 2013 version of McGraw Hill’s literacy program in 2014. Before initially implementing this program, an adoption process was followed fully vetting all resources and reviewing multiple literacy programs before making the decision to implement Wonders.

At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the district’s online license and access expired, which meant no virtual access for students and staff. Therefore, since the 2013 version of Wonders is also no longer fully supported by McGraw Hill nor does the program support current literacy research, an upgrade or refresh of the current Wonders 2013 Literacy Curriculum to the updated 2020 Wonders curriculum was required. The updated version also provides teachers with all resources available -- writing companions, leveled readers, diagnostic assessments, etc. -- to fully support literacy in the classroom.

Important Note - Wonders 2020 is an update of the current curriculum, not a new curriculum adoption. Because this is an update, not a new implementation, the cost is significantly reduced and the transition is smoother for staff and students. This was an important consideration following the unique challenges and disruption due to Covid.