



Sebastian Elementary

2.09- Research and implement a student to student peer mentorship program for African American students

Peer mentoring is a powerful tool that can have a positive influence on a student's learning, and students who are older, more capable readers can be these peers for young students. With this in mind, we have implemented such programs at Sebastian Elementary during the 2019_2020 school year with grades 2nd – Kindergarten.

The Reading Buddies paired 2nd grade students with Kindergarten students for a weekly read. The program worked as follows:

- An upper-grade classroom connects with a lower-grade one, and students partner for time with books.
- Established one 30minute session per week
- Students met in their Reading Buddie classrooms
- For the first half of the program's duration the younger students would choose the books in order to ensure an interest was present.
- For the second half of the program's duration the older students would choose the books.
- The effort culminated prematurely due to the schoolyear coming to an abrupt end however, the goal was to have the older students share-out with the entire grade level of 2nd and Kinder in an assembly as to what books were their favorite along with some key details.

