

# 2008-2009 GIPS Balanced Literacy Course

## Three Graduate Credits Through Doane College

### Course Description

This course will provide opportunities to develop an understanding of the GIPS K-12 Balanced Literacy Model and standards-based balanced literacy instruction. Instructional components of the Balanced Literacy Model include shared reading, guided reading, reading skills, read aloud, word study, independent reading, reading fluency, reading comprehension strategies, writing process, six traits of effective writing, research, speaking, and listening. Participants will apply their learning in their own teaching practices and then reflect on those practices throughout the course.

### Course Standards

- Participants will understand the GIPS K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Design Framework.
- Participants will understand and be able to implement all components of the GIPS Balanced Literacy Model.
- Participants will understand and be able to implement research-based effective instructional strategies.

### Participants and Teachers

This course is required for all teachers new to GIPS with responsibilities for teaching K-12 language arts (including SpEd and ELL). Additionally, this course provides the opportunity for veteran GIPS teachers who would like to revisit, refine, and expand their understanding of standards-based balanced literacy instruction and obtain graduate credit. Current GIPS teachers will gain a better understanding of the GIPS Balanced Literacy Model and how to incorporate the balanced literacy components into any K-12 learning environment.

In order to maintain small class sizes and facilitate growth-evoking conversations, this course will be split into three sections as follows:

- K-2 teachers - taught by Jodi Hughes, GIPSLiteracy Coaches
- 3-5 teachers - taught by Sherri Klentz, GIPS Literacy Coach
- 6-12 teachers - taught by Traci Rezac and Fawn Gernstein, GIPS Literacy Coaches

### Course Dates, Time, and Location

This course will meet approximately every other week, from late August through March, beginning on August 27th. Note that there are no class meetings in December, April, or May. Course sessions will be held at the GIPS Administration Building on designated Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. on the following dates:

- August 27
- September 10
- September 24
- October 8
- October 22
- November 12
- January 14
- January 28
- February 4
- February 25
- March 4
- March 25

**K-2 Class meets in the Challenge Center.**  
**3-5 Class meets in the West Conference Room.**  
**6-12 Class meets in the OT/PT Room.**

### Course Assignments

- Course assignments will focus on the application of balanced literacy in participants' classrooms.
- Readings from course resources will also be assigned periodically throughout the semester. The books used for this course will be provided to participants by Teaching and Learning Services.
- Because so much content is uncovered during class meetings, all participants are expected to attend all class sessions for the entire length of the session. Participants who must miss all or part of a session will be expected obtain course notes and complete a makeup assignment.

### Graduate Credit

For all new K-12 teachers enrolled in the course, the GIPS Teaching & Learning Services will pay the entire cost for three Doane College graduate credits once the course has been successfully completed (second semester credit). For any new teachers who choose not to earn graduate credit, a \$250 stipend will be paid upon course completion, and professional growth points may be earned. Veteran GIPS teachers must pay for their own graduate credit. In order to earn credit or professional growth, participants must have excellent attendance and satisfactorily complete all course assignments.

### Additional Information

For further information about this course, please contact Mary Unger (munger@gips.org or 385-5900, extension 130) or Deb Karle (dkarle@gips.org or 385-5900, extension 132).