

Redefining Reading Success at Bob Folsom Elementary

Bob Folsom Elementary School, a K-3 school in the Farmington School District in Arkansas, is deeply committed to helping students thrive academically. Recognizing a need to strengthen reading engagement, media specialist Jennifer Dowdle led an initiative to inspire a love for reading. The school had previously relied on Accelerated Reader but sought a new approach that emphasized enjoyment over testing. By transitioning to Beanstack, they aimed to foster a culture where students build fluency, stamina, and a lifelong passion for reading.

Dowdle's goals for the program were ambitious and inspiring. She worked to achieve 100% student participation, creating an inclusive environment where every child could engage. Beyond participation, she aimed to improve fluency and stamina across grade levels while removing restrictive criteria like book-level requirements to let students read freely. Recognizing the importance of role models, Dowdle asked teachers to participate in reading challenges and model positive reading habits. She also set and exceeded collective reading goals, inspiring students to aim higher and fostering a shared enthusiasm for reading school-wide.

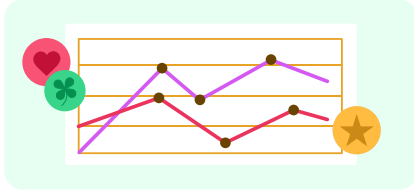
"I have seen a tremendous increase in student reading since switching to Beanstack. Students are excited about reading, which means students are checking out more books."

Jennifer Dowdle

Media Specialist
 Bob Folsom Elementary School



APPROACH



Visible Progress Tracking

Digital badges are printed monthly and displayed in the hallways to showcase students' achievements. Students' names and progress are regularly updated to celebrate milestones and encourage engagement.



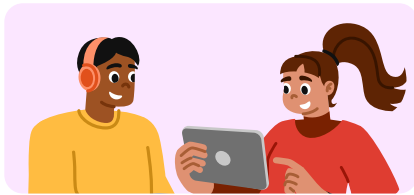
Engaging Incentives

Each week, the top readers for each grade level and their teachers are highlighted on cafeteria TVs, with prizes awarded for the minutes they log.



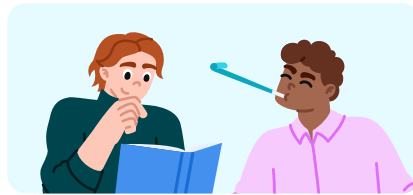
School-wide Goal Setting

Monthly reading goals, gradually increased each month to encourage students to stretch their reading abilities. Milestones like 1,000 or 2,000 minutes logged are celebrated school-wide.



Inclusive Participation

For younger students, read-aloud sessions and class reading times are logged to ensure they can fully participate. At-home reading is encouraged to supplement in-school efforts and build stronger reading habits.



Teacher Engagement

Teachers participate in reading challenges, modeling positive reading habits for students. They are celebrated and rewarded alongside their students.



Creative Promotion

School announcements and social media posts share regular updates about progress and winners, creating excitement and sustaining momentum for the program.

RESULTS

Dowdle's implementation of Beanstack led to impressive results, with the school hitting 100% participation in reading initiatives. Students quickly surpassed monthly reading goals, sparking a competitive spirit and driving them to break records month after month. The initiative boosted community engagement, with visible progress and recognition fueling pride. Social media posts and in-school displays celebrated achievements, generating excitement among students, parents, and staff. Teacher involvement also played a key role, as educators who participated saw increased engagement and enthusiasm in their classrooms.



CONCLUSION

Bob Folsom Elementary's successful implementation of Beanstack demonstrates how a well-structured reading initiative can transform school culture. Dowdle fostered a community-driven approach to reading by emphasizing shared goal-setting, celebrating achievements, and creating an inclusive program. Her strategy highlights the power of gamification and collaboration in achieving fluency, stamina, and a lifelong love for reading.