

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE) Joins Oak Harbor Teachers in the Classroom**

Berkeley, CA, October 3, 2011 – Oak Harbor School District recently learned that it will receive a \$2.16 million grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to improve reading for children in preschool through fifth grade. Oak Harbor School District has selected Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE) to train its teachers. The new reading emphasis will have an immediate impact on Oak Harbor elementary schools and preschools, with teachers receiving a week of intensive training before the start of the 2012–2013 school year.

The three-year project, titled "Early Reading, Lifelong Success," is patterned after a program already in place at Crescent Harbor Elementary and Olympic View Elementary. The program uses a nationally known independent group of reading specialists to work with Oak Harbor teachers to improve how reading is taught in the classroom.

Through the grant, Oak Harbor will be contracting with CORE, a private firm made up of educators who specialize in literacy and math instruction and professional development. The CORE program, which is the centerpiece of the grant, is based on the company's proven success, both locally and around the nation. CORE is the group already working with Crescent Harbor and Olympic View elementary schools.

"CORE is not 'one more thing,'" notes Literacy Coach Kim Kellogg. "The facilitators and the CORE Reading Academy focus on effective reading strategies to use with Oak Harbor's elementary reading curriculum and other resources we already have in place. The strategies are practical and easy to use, and they will really strengthen our reading instruction."

Crescent Harbor Elementary, which entered "school improvement" status three years ago, has seen steady improvement. This year, Crescent Harbor scored higher than any other Oak Harbor school in fourth grade math, with 65.8 percent testing at proficiency levels. Writing scores improved by 26 percent in fourth grade, while reading improved by 10 percent. "I can't say enough positive things about the turnaround at Crescent Harbor—this school showed a lot of heart and determination during a difficult time," Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lance Gibbon reported.

NEW STORY in Whidbey News-Times (Oak Harbor Newspaper):  
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/whidbey/wnt/news/129341883.html>

TV Spot (KVOS): <http://www.kvos.com/content/newsview/story/Newsview-Oak-Harbor-Schools-Grant/vVolJyTAzEq2rVMcPErCg.cspX>

### About CORE

CORE serves as a trusted advisor at all levels of preK–12 education, working collaboratively with educators to support literacy and math achievement growth for all students. Our implementation support services and products help our customers build their own capacity for effective instruction by laying a foundation of research-based knowledge, supporting the use of proven tools, and developing leadership. As an organization committed to integrity, excellence, and service, we believe that with informed school and district administrators, expert teaching and well-implemented programs, all students can become proficient academically.

For more information about CORE, please visit our website at [www.corelearn.com](http://www.corelearn.com).