

Literacy efforts get boost from 761 Foundation

761 Foundation funds multiple literacy efforts in the Owatonna Public schools during the 2018-2019 school year.

- **Leveled Literacy Intervention Program**

In its first year, the **Leveled Literacy Intervention Program**, an intensive 12-14 weeks of extra daily reading for elementary students who are one to two grade levels behind expected reading levels, will be used as a model for all elementary students in the District.

761 Foundation funds were used to purchase instructional materials for the program.

- **Books for Elementary Students**

The Foundation also helped purchase of sets of fiction and non-fiction books for elementary students. The leveled books allow teachers to pair children with books that best match their reading abilities.

- **Children's Author On-Site Visit**

Literacy experts agree one of the best ways to increase enthusiasm for reading and writing in schools is to bring a **children's author on-site**.

Owatonna's elementary students (grades kindergarten through 5th grade) were treated to two children's authors this fall thanks to a 761 Foundation mini-grant. Authors Miranda and Baptiste Paul discussed their works of fiction and non-fiction at each of the district's elementary schools. Both authors have written books individually and together.

To read more on their visit, see Ryan Anderson's [news story](#) in the Owatonna People's Press.

- **Middle School Book Club**

A 761 Foundation mini-grant will purchase books for the **Middle School Book Club** in the 2018-2019 school year. Club members, who meet for six weeks, will read and discuss "A Wrinkle in Time," an award-winning science fantasy novel that addresses individuality, conformity and personal growth.