

# Language skills improve with Superkids



## Instructional lift

At Hillcrest Elementary, students' language skills continue to advance, thanks to *The Superkids Reading Program*<sup>™</sup>. Research-based reading and writing instruction focuses on teaching a predictable progression of skills for primary students. Hillcrest principal Jennifer Barrow explains, "I see teachers getting better and better at trusting the program" because of its proven foundation in research on reading and writing development. Hillcrest credits its rising language arts assessment scores to the instruction *Superkids*<sup>®</sup> provides.

## Writing with Superkids

Hillcrest teachers and administrators especially appreciate the ongoing development of the writing component of *Superkids*. "Students are making great strides in writing," says Barrow. Based on research, the literacy instruction in *Superkids* spirals. In kindergarten, students focus on learning each letter through four means—hear it, see it, say it, write it—on their way to reading and writing more complex sentences. This makes them consistently successful with decoding and encoding words as well as writing.

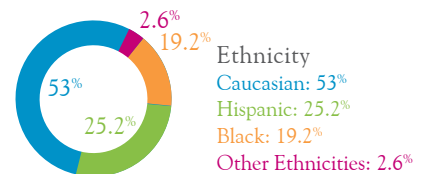
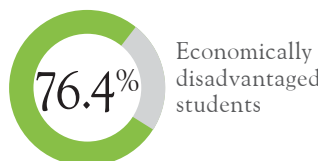
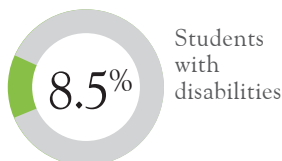
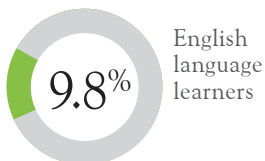
Hillcrest teachers and administrators know the program works. "*Superkids* really breaks it down," says Barrow, "especially in kindergarten. In other programs, there's a rush with invented spelling the first week of school, but we've got to slow it down and talk about letter formation and the sound a letter makes." That way, students create a firm foundation for writing as well as reading.

The progression of skills in *Superkids* leads directly to solid writing skills. "Our writing scores are continuing to increase," curriculum specialist Kim Griffiths adds.

“*Superkids* does a great job of explaining the rules of phonics and how to apply those rules while reading and writing.”  
—Gina D’Angelo, First-Grade Teacher

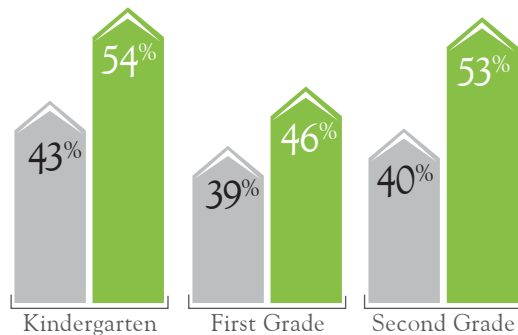
## Hillcrest Elementary School

A K–5 public charter school in suburban Polk County in central Florida



## Hillcrest students score higher in English language arts with Superkids

Students scoring at or above 60th percentile nationally on the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress® for Primary Grades assessment in English language arts



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### Writing that supports comprehension

*Superkids* also gets high marks for writing activities that support reading comprehension. Hillcrest teachers explain that students are showing progress in decoding text and reading independently. “We absolutely love the Book Talk Journals and how they get the kids ready for more analytical thinking types of questions,” says Griffiths.

Griffiths adds, “The Book Club really prepares them for third grade. Our intermediate reading program does nothing but real literature, so we appreciate that second grade has that Book Club to bridge them to third grade. That way it’s not such a big curriculum jump for our children.”

“They get really excited to dive into the nonfiction SUPER magazine and learn science and social studies during reading time.”

—Melinda Croley, Second-Grade Teacher

The differentiation in *Superkids* is also very important at Hillcrest, where more than three-quarters of the students are economically disadvantaged and nearly 1 in 10 is an English language learner. Second-grade teacher Belinda Tanner points out that she witnesses the differentiation in *Superkids* meeting the needs of all her students.

“I really love the differentiation that is provided in the Teacher's Guides to assist with all types of learners and readers.”

—Karla Janoski, First/Second-Grade Teacher

### Superkids...for teachers

“We had a fabulous writing training recently,” says Griffiths. “Our trainer showed us the progression of writing from kindergarten to grade 2. Our second-grade teachers especially feel the writing component has been stepped up a notch.”

Principal Barrow believes that Hillcrest’s investment in *Superkids* professional development was a key contributor to their rising test scores. She and the administration team rely on the professional development *Superkids* provides.

“Part of our success is the ongoing, strong professional development which *Superkids* absolutely provides.”

—Jennifer Barrow, Principal

The professional development *Superkids* publisher Zaner-Bloser provides is “a 10,” says Barrow. The Hillcrest principal continues to invest in her teachers. “We’re already thinking about having the side-by-side individual coaching next year to kind of take us to that next level.”

When teachers have a question about *Superkids*, they are encouraged to go back to their training on the program components. “We have them go back to the program, go through each unit, look for the purpose of writing,” says Barrow. She credits her teachers’ willingness to engage with the program and trust its progression of skills to increase student literacy. And the results at Hillcrest bear out the teachers’ conviction in the efficacy of *Superkids*.

To learn more about what makes *Superkids* a great fit for your school, visit [superkidsreading.com](http://superkidsreading.com) or call 888.378.9258.