

MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DR. L. VANVALKENBURG, PRINCIPAL

13425 COLVIN
RIVERVIEW, MICHIGAN 48192

285-4080

Nov. 18, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

Memorial School began Orton-Gillingham training in the spring of 1996 as a part of our School Improvement program. It was evident that our traditional method of teaching reading was not reaching all children. We had many at-risk students who needed additional assistance, yet did not qualify for special education services. We searched for a program that would benefit all students yet provide assistance for at-risk students. The Orton-Gillingham method of multi-sensory education appeared to meet our needs. We funded teacher and paraprofessional instruction in the Orton-Gillingham method with our Title 1 grant.

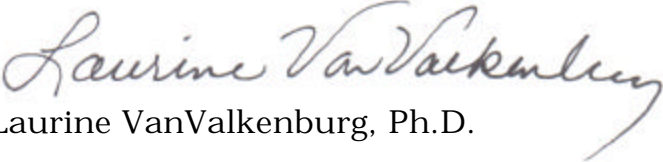
Teachers of kindergarten and grades one through three received Orton-Gillingham instruction from Ms. Jeanne Liuzzo, a trainer with the Reading and Language Institute. Our teachers found Ms. Liuzzo to be very knowledgeable in the teaching of reading and the Orton-Gillingham method of language instruction. She was able to teach our faculty the Orton-Gillingham method in a very organized, theoretically correct and classroom adaptable format. The teachers were delighted with her and the curriculum she provided. All of them have successfully incorporated the Orton-Gillingham techniques in their teaching of reading. This year, Ms. Liuzzo provided follow-up instruction in the Orton-Gillingham method for the teachers who took instruction last spring. We hope to continue this practice each year.

This year, Ms. Liuzzo and Mrs. Bronwyn Hain, also of the Reading and Language Institute formed their own company, the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education. Memorial contracted with the institute to provide training for the few Memorial teachers and paraprofessionals who did not receive the training last spring and for the teachers and paraprofessionals from the other two elementary schools in the district.

The word had spread throughout the district that the training was extremely valuable and that our trainer, Ms. Liuzzo was exceptional. We are planning to provide training for upper elementary teachers in the Orton-Gillingham method during the second semester.

Ms. Liuzzo and Mrs. Hain provide a great service through the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education. Their curriculum and instructional materials are very well organized. It is evident that their program is designed by teachers for teachers; they have a great understanding of realistic classroom environments. They are very professional in all they attempt. I highly recommend them and their programs for all schools. Please call me if you seek further information or would like to visit our school to see the Orton-Gillingham method in use.

Sincerely,



Laurine VanValkenburg, Ph.D.