

HOW TO:

Bridge connections between Newsela and your curriculum

The first step in helping your teachers succeed is providing them with the right content resources that support their instruction. The next is to draw connections between those resources and your curriculum. Read how [Newsela Certified Educators](#) (NCE) at schools in Minnesota and Oklahoma, and Oregon utilized Newsela PRO to meet their students' needs, while also aligning it to their curriculum's scope and sequence.

Carondelet Catholic School

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
GRADES K-8

With access to Chromebooks, MacBooks, and iPads, teachers at Carondelet Catholic School have been moving towards designing their own digital curricula. Their teachers structure their own curriculum and resources to best fit their students' needs and Minnesota State Standards. After 2 years with Newsela PRO, elementary and secondary teachers now use Newsela as their go-to for nonfiction instruction. Here is the key to their success in embedding it into their curriculum:

Links to scope and sequence

Teachers worked together to develop the scope and sequence of their curriculum at Carondelet. They directly link to Newsela articles and Text Sets from within a shared Google Document, especially in science and social studies courses.

Active in Professional Learning Communities

The NCEs help support the school's curriculum with expert knowledge and structured planning during grade and content-area PLCs by sharing successful lessons and templates of Newsela activities with other teachers.

Westview High School

BEAVERTON, OREGON

GRADES 9-12

Beaverton School District originally partnered with Newsela in 2015 to be an ELA resource to support the application of Lucy Calkin's Teachers College Workshop model in grades 6-12. After implementing Newsela within ELA, other disciplines began reviewing Newsela as a resource to support their content area curriculum.

When the life sciences department at Westview High School met in 2018 to review their approach to tackling a new state and district wide mandate to address literacy across the curriculum as well as providing real life examples of science, they turned to Newsela to accomplish both. Here's how they embedded Newsela into their daily instruction:

Interdepartmental collaboration

Science teachers at Westview High worked closely together to develop standards to define strong connections to science applied to the real world. That work carried over into their implementation of Newsela. Teachers now share recommended articles within the platform with one another, and also share Canvas course calendars so other teachers know what articles are upcoming in their colleague's courses.

Embedded in daily lesson plans

Science teachers at Westview High set a goal to incorporate real world connections to science practices when lesson planning. To ensure they met their goal, they decided to develop a shared class routine of beginning each day in class with a reading from Newsela. This also allowed students to remain active while teachers completed necessary tasks like setting up labs and intervening with students needing extra work and attention. They now devote 10-15 minutes every day to reading and discussing a Newsela article related to the lesson.

Heritage Hall

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
GRADES K-12
898 STUDENTS

At Heritage Hall, 7th grade educator Campbell Hart has the freedom to design her own curriculum. Instead of textbooks, Campbell turns to Newsela as an opportunity to build her units of study in U.S. History. She explained that she is "not a fan of textbooks" and embraces the challenge of a digital alignment. Now Newsela serves as the backbone of a full year's worth of instruction. Here are elements that helped Campbell connect Newsela to her classroom's curriculum:

Use Text Sets to plan and curate units of study

Campbell has been able to map to the school's scope and sequence with Text Sets and individual article assignments. She often uses news as an entry point to make reading more approachable and fun for her students and utilizes Newsela's primary sources for analysis. She creates Text Sets to allow her students to pick which primary sources interest them most and sets clear expectations and routines for Newsela each week. For example, she will assign 2-3 articles a week for homework. These articles are meant to

prepare students for the next lesson and help her align to the class' scope and sequence. In the classroom, she will take components of the articles to insert in her slideshows to present key content area takeaways.



Key Takeaways

Cardonelet Catholic, Westview High School, and Heritage Hall continue to empower their teachers by giving them the flexibility to use Newsela in ways that support their curricular needs. Here are a few more useful tools to help your teachers use Newsela to support their classroom instruction:

1

Share assignments to support school-wide implementation

Encourage inter- and cross- departmental collaboration. Have teachers share assignments they create for their classrooms with other teachers.

2

Create Text Sets and draft assignments to plan ahead

Build Text Sets and draft potential exemplar assignments for your teachers, specific to your school's curriculum and scope and sequence.

3

PLC Connections

Make time for teachers to connect and share different strategies on how they use Newsela in their classroom.