

HOW TO:

Empower lead teachers to become Newsela advocates

When trying to implement a new resource in your school or district, it's important to have teacher buy-in. Empowering your teacher leaders to become Newsela advocates helps the rest of your teachers feel supported and encouraged by their peers to use the resource more regularly, and better understand how it fits into classroom instruction. Read how teacher advocates at these three schools encouraged more integrated school-wide adoption of Newsela.

Marie V. Duffy Elementary

PUBLIC
WHARTON, NEW JERSEY
PRE K-5

Marie V. Duffy Elementary needed up-to-date content that their students enjoyed. With a high population of transient students and others who are greatly behind on instructional reading levels, Newsela was a great fit for Marie V. Duffy Elementary due to its embedded differentiation.

When using Newsela, teachers at Marie V. Duffy are deeply engaged with interdisciplinary article assignments across multiple subject areas. Here are some elements that have contributed to helping make teachers power users of Newsela:

Weekly routines

Teachers assign three articles per week and establish their own routines for how they distribute the content with students.

PLC connections

Grade level and content area teachers meet and share Newsela assignments to save time and apply across classrooms. Teachers co-plan together to help establish Newsela as an essential tool across multiple content areas.

Bradley-Bourbonnais High School

PUBLIC
BRADLEY, ILLINOIS
GRADES 9-12

Bradley-Bourbonnais High School was dedicated to school-wide success with Newsela. They included Newsela in their "Essential Learning" during back-to-school, which is required time for all staff to participate in guided professional learning during their prep hours.

Designate a coordinator

Bradley-Bourbonnais' English and Reading Intervention Specialist took on a leadership role in their school's Newsela implementation, helping teachers get set up with their accounts and make connections to their content areas.



Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary

PUBLIC
RACINE, WISCONSIN
GRADES K-5

Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary 5th grade teachers follow an inquiry teaching approach and rotate topics every 6 weeks with a focus on independent student research. When Newsela was introduced by a member of their team, it helped solve their need for relevant and engaging interdisciplinary non-fiction for their students. They quickly collaborated to strategize how Newsela could be used as their primary resource for inquiry-based instruction.

Newsela has become an essential tool at Jefferson Lighthouse for many teachers. Here's how the 5th grade team have become leaders in bringing Newsela to the whole school and making Newsela their just-right solution:

Peer advocate

Jefferson Lighthouse assigned one of their teachers, Robert Champagne, as the Newsela lead for his school. He has helped bring PRO to the school, established systems for sharing routines with his 5th grade team, and supports other teachers use of Newsela in their classrooms.

Daily reading time

Teachers schedule 30 minutes everyday in the school media center, during which students read an assigned Newsela article based on their current unit of study.

Connect resources to instructional priorities

The school designs its units based on six-week inquiries. These units rotate by subject area and allow for student research on a choice topic. In this model, students have to search and find one Newsela article each week that supports their inquiry.

Key Takeaways

Schools like Marie V. Duffy, Bradley-Bourbonnais, and Jefferson Lighthouse continue to create opportunities and routines to help empower their teachers to become school champions of Newsela PRO. Here are some recommendations to help encourage your teachers to become Newsela power teachers and support meaningful applications of Newsela, aligned to your curricular goals.

1

Leadership opportunities

Create leadership opportunities for teachers by recommending they complete Newsela Certified Educator or Newsela Teacher Trainer to learn and share deeper applications of Newsela with their colleagues

2

On-demand professional learning

Point teachers towards the Educator Center, where there are tons of resources, videos, on-demand webinars to help them get more comfortable using Newsela

3

Create routines

Build Newsela into your staff meeting or PLC agenda and encourage teachers to share best practices strategies on how they use Newsela in their classroom.