

Dear Saint Margaret Families,

Hello! As the school year ends, I wanted to share that I have recently completed a yearlong practicum to become a certified Wilson Reading teacher. **The Wilson Reading System (WRS) is an instructional program used to help readers from second grade to adulthood.**

**The Wilson Reading System:**

- Presents the material in 12 Steps, not corresponding to school grade levels, that are further divided into 52 incremental substeps, each building upon the previous one. Requiring the mastery of each substep before progressing to the next one makes the demands of the subsequent substep manageable and achievable.
- Follows a ten-part lesson plan that addresses the following in a sensible and logical fashion: decoding, morphology and the study of word elements, encoding and orthography (internalizing the rules that govern English), high frequency word instruction, oral reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Provides a systematic and cumulative approach to teaching total word structure for reading and spelling.
- Uses a unique “sound tapping” system early in the program to help students segment and blend sounds.
- Provides a penciling technique for scooping sentences and passages into meaningful phrases in order to read with prosody.
- Teaches concepts through the manipulation of sound, syllable, and word elements (prefix, base element, and suffix).
- Has one of the most extensive collections of controlled and readable text (wordlists, sentences, stories) for students beyond the primary grades.
- Uses criterion-based assessments built into the program to measure student progress and success.
- Supports college- and career-readiness standards, including the Common Core State Standards, by providing students who have a language-based learning disability with the foundational and language skills that are necessary to be able to access grade-level text.
- Is a comprehensive program that can follow students from grade to grade, as needed.

I am excited to add this certification to my Masters of Science in Education and my 18 years of classroom experience. If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity for your child over the summer please contact me at [erooney@smsnarberth.org](mailto:erooney@smsnarberth.org). Alternatively, if you know of someone outside of the Saint Margaret community that may be interested in this opportunity, please feel free to share my contact information.

Sincerely,

Erin Rooney

