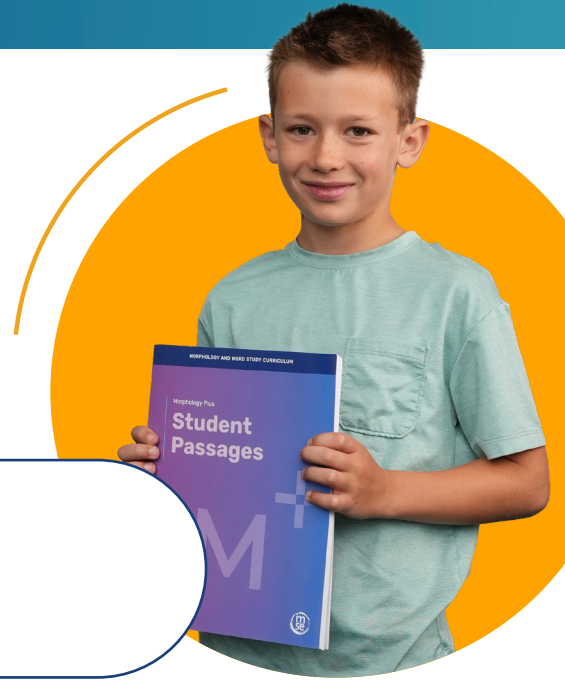
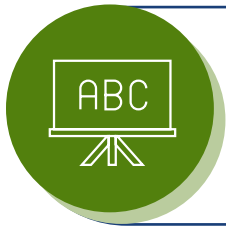




institute for
multi-sensory
education



CASE STUDY



Holy Family School

New Albany, Indiana

At Holy Family School in New Albany, Indiana, educators are committed to ensuring every student develops the literacy skills needed to succeed. Serving a close-knit school community characterized by strong family engagement and support, Holy Family School strives to provide every learner with the foundation necessary for long-term academic success. As they evaluated their literacy practices, leaders recognized an opportunity to create a more cohesive approach that supports all students including English learners and those at risk for dyslexia and other reading challenges. What followed was a schoolwide transformation that reshaped how reading was taught so every student could reach their full potential.

They partnered with IMSE to implement a Structured Literacy approach to address these challenges.

School Profile



PRE K - 8th

Grades Served



418

Students



25.3%

Minority Enrollment

"We knew we wanted an Orton-Gillingham approach, but IMSE helped us realize the missing piece was the multisensory component. Once we saw students responding to that approach, we knew this needed to become our schoolwide model."

Abby Rohlfing

Instructional Coach at Holy Family





THE CHALLENGE

Holy Family School leaders and teachers had explored various programs and Orton-Gillingham-based training over the years, but lacked a consistent, schoolwide approach to implementation. While educators recognized the value of structured phonics instruction, they often felt they were only getting “pieces” of the approach rather than a comprehensive framework that teachers could implement consistently across classrooms.

The school also saw a growing number of students being identified with dyslexia or other reading difficulties by second grade. Many students required outside intervention services during the school day because the school lacked a unified in-house approach for supporting struggling readers early enough.

"We realized we were catching students too late, and students were leaving school for outside intervention because we didn't yet have the systems in place to fully support them here."

Abby Rohlifing
Instructional Coach at Holy Family



THE SOLUTION

Holy Family School's shift toward Structured Literacy began when first-grade teachers attended IMSE Orton-Gillingham Plus training in 2024. They returned energized by the clarity and structure of the approach, and after implementing it in first grade, the team quickly saw stronger student outcomes and engagement.

That success led leaders to expand training schoolwide. Today, all teachers through sixth grade have been trained, with IMSE practices deeply embedded in kindergarten through second grade. Rather than reserving intervention for struggling students, Holy Family adopted IMSE as a Tier 1 approach for all learners, emphasizing consistent routines, multisensory instruction, and explicit phonics from the start of kindergarten.

The school also invested heavily in ongoing professional support. Teachers collaborate regularly to share instructional ideas and refine practices, while instructional coaching and classroom observations help reinforce consistency. To deepen that support, Holy Family partnered with IMSE's coaching program, working directly with expert IMSE instructors through personalized sessions designed to help teachers implement with confidence. IMSE coaching provided practical, real-time guidance on refining lesson delivery, differentiating instruction, and getting the most out of IMSE tools and resources, ensuring the approach took root in everyday classroom practice.

"The proof is there. You see the growth so quickly, and you see students truly believing they can read and write. That changes everything."

Amy Huber
Principal of Holy Family



THE RESULTS

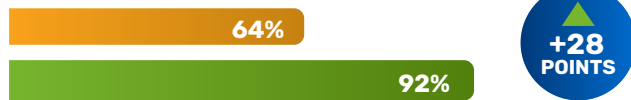
Holy Family School quickly began seeing measurable literacy gains after implementing IMSE with fidelity. What started with a small group of teachers quickly grew into a schoolwide commitment to evidence-based literacy instruction. Today, Holy Family School is seeing measurable growth in literacy outcomes, stronger student confidence, and a more aligned instructional approach across classrooms.

One of the school's most significant accomplishments emerged through Indiana's iREAD assessment. During the 2024–2025 school year, 90% of Holy Family's second-grade students passed Indiana's third-grade iREAD assessment. These students had received consistent IMSE instruction beginning in first grade.

Kindergarten DIBELS

BOY 2024  EOY 2025 

Composite



Decoding

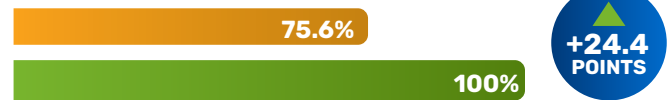


Word Reading

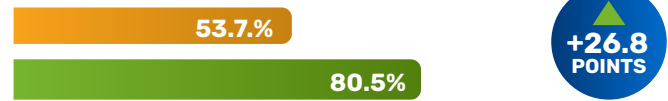


1st Grade DIBELS

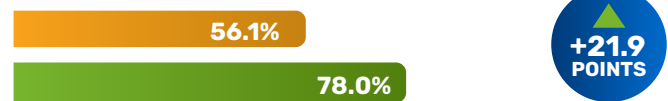
Phonemic Awareness



Word Reading



Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)



Beyond assessment data, educators observed:

- Stronger engagement during classroom instruction. Students actively participated in multisensory routines and developed a deeper understanding of how language works.
- First-grade students were able to independently lead IMSE three-part drills and dictation activities for their peers.
- Conversations around struggling readers began to change. Instead of immediately questioning whether a student required retention or outside placement, teachers felt better equipped to identify and address foundational skill gaps earlier through explicit instruction.

Empowering Young Readers With IMSE and Structured Literacy

Holy Family School's literacy transformation highlights the impact of consistent, evidence-based Structured Literacy on student outcomes and school culture. Through teacher training, schoolwide implementation, and a focus on early Tier 1 intervention, the school has built a stronger foundation for literacy success. Today, students are not only achieving stronger results but also developing confidence as readers and writers from the earliest grades.



ABOUT IMSE

IMSE is an education pioneer and the leading provider of Structured Literacy solutions based on the science of reading. IMSE solutions incorporate the Orton-Gillingham methodology and all five pillars of literacy to empower teachers from day one.

Visit imse.com or contact info@imse.com to learn more about our work with school districts around the country.



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