Strategies for improving reading skills of the pupils at the

NMS Voitsberg/Austria

At our school we have a project to improve the reading skills of our students. Our pupils are at the age of 10 to 14.

After the 20 minutes break at 10.15 where the pupils have their break outdoors to get some movement there is a time of 15 minutes where the pupils have to read. They are allowed to read what they are interested in. The weaker pupils may also read comics.

Normally the pupils bring their own books but there are also books in class or they get the books from the school library.

For the pupils whose reading skills are very weak we have so called “reading coaches”. These are students whose reading skills and reading comprehension is very good. They help the weaker readers with the reading, who read the text aloud and the good students make sure that they understand what they have read. These students go out of the class and find another place at the school house (e.g. the corridor where there are desks or the library etc.) so that they don’t disturb the other ones.

For the weaker pupils there are also short texts where they have to do true or false exercises or to answer questions. So the pupils have to read the texts very carefully and the teacher can see if the pupils understood the text or not.

This reading time takes place every day. So there is a time of concentrated reading for each student of 75 minutes a week to improve their reading skills.