



School of Excellence

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Retention Law to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level, which will affect 2016/2017 Kindergarten students by the time they are in Third Grade. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing Kindergarten through Third Grade assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

Students in grades Kindergarten through Third Grade will be assessed in reading at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of Kindergarten through Third Grade students who are not meeting proficiency targets. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and strategies for you to help your child at home (a Read-At-Home Plan).

All Third Grade students will be required to take a standardized state assessment at the end of the year to determine promotion to Fourth Grade. If your child is reading below grade level at the end of Third Grade, you will be informed in writing that your child will not be promoted to Fourth Grade unless he/she qualifies for a Good Cause Exemption.

Given that reading proficiency is a strong predictor of future career and college readiness, literacy is embedded in all subject areas. Although the school focuses on early literacy throughout the school day, we still need your support. Family engagement plays a vital role in a child's success as a reader.

For more information, please contact your child(ren) teacher and building principal.

Sincerely,

Principal