



555 W. Columbia
Belleville, Michigan 48111-3999
(734) 697-9123 (PH) (734) 697-6385 (FAX)

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Friday, November 2, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed House Bill No. 4822 to ensure children who exit Third Grade are reading at grade level. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, students must be proficient on this test in reading in order to be promoted to the Fourth Grade.

This legislation requires that each school administers an ongoing assessment to identify each child's reading progress. These assessments are administered three times per year and the first must be administered within thirty days of school beginning. Van Buren Public Schools has determined that if a child performs in the 60th percentile or below on the NWEA district assessment, the district will provide an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (iRIP) to address and support student areas of weakness and provide resources for parents and guardians. Next week, if your child has been identified to be in the 60th percentile or below, your child's teacher will be reviewing the iRIP with you at parent teacher conferences

The state assessment (M-STEP) is administered in the spring of each year in Grades Three through Eight, and this test will provide information to inform the state of Michigan whether a child has met reading proficiency expectations in order to be promoted to Fourth Grade. For children who are identified to be one year behind based on the state assessment (M-STEP) for the 2019-2020 school year, the state of Michigan will send written notification to parents/guardians.

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. As a partner in your child's education, we encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher regarding their progress.

Lastly, a number of additional resources can be found on the district website under the parent tab. For additional information, please contact your respective building principal or myself at 734-697-9123 or via e-mail at jmoore@vanburenschools.net.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Moore
Director of Instruction
Van Buren Public Schools