

Dear Parents of Third Graders,

Welcome to third grade! Since the start of kindergarten, your child has been learning the basics of reading, mathematics, and other important subjects. Your son or daughter's teacher also has encouraged him or her to be curious and to enjoy learning new things. All of this will help boost learning in third grade and beyond.

In the fall, third-grade students will be given a beginning-of-grade standardized test to see how they are reading. At the end of third grade, students will take end-of-grade tests in reading and in mathematics. These tests tell you and your child's teacher and principal if your child has learned the basic skills that he or she needs to be successful in fourth grade.

North Carolina state law now requires that third graders who are not reading at a proficient level on the end-of-grade test or an alternate assessment be given additional support. If your child is not proficient on the end-of-grade test or alternate assessment in reading at the end of third grade:

- Your child will be given the opportunity to retest.
- If your child is not proficient on the retest, he or she will be invited to attend a free summer reading camp to help improve his or her reading skills.
- Following summer reading camp, your child's reading will be assessed again.
- If your child's reading is proficient, he or she will be eligible for promotion to fourth grade.
- If your child does not score proficient on the Read to Achieve test or meet an alternate pathway, he or she will be placed in a fourth-grade class the following year with a third-grade reading retention label. Ninety minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction will be provided daily in these classes. Your child will be eligible to retake the Read to Achieve test in late October to achieve a mid-year promotion and have the third-grade reading retention label removed. Your child will remain in the same fourth grade class for the entire school year and continue to receive the uninterrupted reading instruction throughout fourth grade to support ongoing improvement in reading skills.

As your child enters 3rd grade, here are a few things you can do to help your child.

- Set aside time daily for your child to read and for you to read to your child.
- Visit the local public library and check out books.
- Encourage your child to talk, draw, and write about the things that interest him or her.
- Let your child know that third grade will offer many opportunities for fun and exciting learning.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's principal, teacher, or the BCS Curriculum Department.