



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Dear Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade Families:

Being a good reader is critical for a student to be successful in both school and in life. This letter serves as a point of information for families regarding the Michigan Third Grade Reading Legislation. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure that students are reading at-or-above grade level when they exit 3rd grade. In accordance with the law, districts across the state will assess the reading skills of students in kindergarten through 3rd grade at the beginning of the school year. The intent is to help identify students who may need additional support in learning to read. The results of the assessments will provide useful information to help teachers better meet the individual needs of each student.

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 performed in the 60th percentile or below on the NWEA district assessment, the district will provide an Individual Reading Improvement Plan 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 performing in the 60th percentile or below, your child's teacher will be reviewing the Reading Plan with you at parent teacher conferences.

All 3rd grade students are required to take the state assessment (M-STEP) at the end of the year. Beginning with this school year, 3rd grade students who are one or more years below grade level in reading on the state assessment will not be eligible to be promoted to 4th grade. At that time, the family of a 3rd grade child who is not reading at grade level will receive written notice that their child will not be promoted to 4th grade, unless there is good cause for a student to be exempted. This year's 3rd grade students will be the first group impacted by this legislation.

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