



PLYMOUTH-CANTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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November 2020

Dear Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 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.

We will continue to follow our practice of assessing our kindergarten through 3rd grade students throughout the school year and provide academic supports based on individual student needs.

The district is committed to providing regular communication with parents and — as required by law — will provide written communication to parents of students who are not meeting proficiency targets. Please know that if your child demonstrates the need to receive additional support in reading, school staff will share this information with you. Communication from the school will include the in-school supports available for your child, as well as strategies for you to help your child at home, known as a Read-At-Home Plan.

All 3rd grade students are required to take the state assessment (M-STEP) at the end of the year. Beginning with the 2020-2021 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 they qualify for a Good Cause Exemption. This year's 3rd grade students will be the first group impacted by this part of the legislation. You can find additional information about Good Cause Exemptions on our website at <https://www.pccsk12.com/departments/teaching-learning/elementary-education>

Reading instruction will continue to be a major focus in grades K-3. We believe that students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects such as science, social studies, writing, and math. We look forward to an on-going partnership with families to ensure the success of all of our students.

For more information, please speak with your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Monica L. Merritt
Superintendent of Schools