

District Office

Bryan M. Girbach

Superintendent

Ryan J. McMahon

Assistant Superintendent

Krista A. Hendrix

Finance Director

Lon A. Smith

Director of Student Services



Founded on Tradition – Focused on Excellence

Dear Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Graders:

As a school district that is focused on achieving excellence, Milan Area Schools supports the development of strong literacy skills in our students. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed House Bill No. 4822 (Third Grade Reading Law) to ensure that students who exit third grade are reading at grade level. This law has several requirements that must be integrated into every district's K-3 reading program over the next three school years. Milan Area Schools has been in compliance with many portions of this law for several years.

The current K-3 assessment system in use by Milan Area Schools meets the requirement that schools administer an ongoing testing program to identify each child's reading progress. These assessments are administered three times per year, with the first test occurring during the first thirty days of school. Starting this year, if a K-3 student exhibits a reading deficiency on these assessments, the district is required to provide an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). The IRIP will address the student's challenge areas and will provide training and resources for parents and guardians. IRIPs will be mailed to parents/guardians during late October. IRIPs will also be discussed with parents/guardians during November Parent Teacher Conferences. In addition, a general information meeting with Q and A will be held at Paddock and Symons during the November Parent Teacher Conference week.

In addition to the required K-3 assessment system, the state-level assessment (MSTEP) is administered in the spring of each year in grades three through eight. Starting in 2019-2020, the third grade test will provide data to the state of Michigan that will be used to determine if each child has met the state's reading proficiency expectations. Meeting the state's criteria will determine if a student is going to be promoted to fourth grade. The state of Michigan will send written notification to parents/guardians of third graders who are considered to be not proficient on the state assessment.

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. We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the foundational literacy skills needed to help thrive in our diverse and global world.

Milan Area Schools will maintain resources and information specific to the Third Grade Reading Law on the school district webpage in the curriculum and instruction section.

Sincerely,

Ryan McMahon

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment