

Dear Parents,

Our school district recognizes that all students learn differently. We are committed to helping all students succeed. This year we will be monitoring the academic progress of our students by conducting “universal screenings” during the fall, winter, and spring. This process is referred to as Response to Intervention, or “RTI”. RTI is being adopted by school districts across the country as a means to ensure that all students make adequate progress in reading, math, and written expression.

During the fall, winter, and spring screenings, each student will be individually screened or tested in the areas of basic reading skills and reading comprehension. We hope to also screen in the area of math computation at least once this year. During the coming years, we plan to screen each student in basic reading skills, reading comprehension, basic math skills, spelling, and written expression.

Initially we’ll be focusing on our youngest students, since it’s so important to identify those who are struggling at the soonest possible time, and to help them catch up with their classmates. Eventually we will screen older students as well to make sure that everyone is reaching important academic milestones from year to year. Those students who fall below certain “benchmarks” or levels of performance will be referred for additional intervention and support, and their progress will be monitored more frequently.

We look forward to sharing additional information as we progress through the school year. If you are interested in learning more about RTI, visit the following link for information:

[www.parentinformationcenter.org](http://www.parentinformationcenter.org)

(Look for “New Resource/RTI Guide”, and click on “more information”)

Here’s some suggestions on how you can help your child make progress:

1. Read together for 10-15 minutes every day, and read things that are enjoyable for your child.
2. Celebrate your child’s progress.
3. Stay in touch with your child’s teacher. Attend parent/teacher conferences when possible. If you can’t be there, call your child’s teacher and express your interest.
4. Help your child to develop healthy study and homework skills by:
  - Providing a quiet space for your child to do homework in.
  - Setting a consistent and reasonable schedule for homework completion.
  - Being available to provide assistance.
  - If you don’t know how to help, be sure to let your child’s teacher know so that he or she can provide additional support at school.

Sincerely,