

Dear K-3rd Grade Parents,

For Kindergarten – 3rd grade students, the Literacy Center at Cedarwood is designed to provide support for students by giving teachers more information about how to meet the individual needs of each student in the classroom. Whether a student needs that “double dip” of reading or is performing above his or her grade level, the Literacy Center is where, as Director, I can assess each student, to provide our teachers with the information they need to implement the best teaching practices for your child. Teachers rely on the systematic assessments provided by the Literacy Center to help drive their instruction.

Students in grades K-3rd are assessed three times a year using the DIBELS and Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments. DIBELS (Dynamic indicators of Basic Literacy Skills) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. DIBELS are comprised of measures to function as indicators for things such as phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy, and fluency. The Fountas and Pinnel Benchmark Assessment System is designed to provide teachers with precise tools and text to observe and quantify specific reading behaviors. The information and data gathered during this assessment is used to create meaningful instruction for each student. These assessments allow us to monitor how students are progressing and quickly respond to their individual needs as they grow and change throughout the year.

Aside from this wonderful educational support setting, I believe the Literacy Center is a place where students get to shine. Students that come to the center for reading support may feel frustrated and discouraged about reading. In the center, we meet them right where they are and move them along a path to success. It is a unique opportunity for me to be able to spend one on one time with students getting to know their strengths, weaknesses, and how they learn. I love when students come in to share what they are reading, or they stop by to ask if I have a book that they can bring home to read for the night. Working with students in the Literacy Center is truly one of the highlights of my job!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s reading development, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to meet with you to go over their assessments and give you specific things that you can work on at home.

Thank you,

Lanie McKnight
Assistant Principal
Director of the Literacy Center



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