

9-21-18

Our first curriculum night last evening was a smashing success. Families of kindergarten, first and second graders learned about the curriculum from teachers and then were able to see their children as leaders of the learning during the second half of the evening with the student lead portion. We are looking forward to next week when third, fourth and fifth grade families can come to visit.

Curriculum Nights

- 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades Curriculum Night will be held Thurs. 9-27-18

The evening will start at 6:30 when parents will meet in their child's classroom and students will be congregating on the playground. At 7:00 students will join their parents in the classroom and present their own portion of the evening events.

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open from 5:30 – 6:30 for parents and students to shop for books. The funds raised from Scholastic Book Fairs are used to purchase additional books for our library. Our Fall Book Fair will open both curriculum nights

The Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts will also have information available during curriculum nights.

Parking at Dolsen

We also want to ask families when attending school wide events to please be courteous of our neighbors when you park at the school. We have businesses and residential neighbors all around the school and we want to make sure they have easy access to and from their driveways.

Family Game Night

Mark your calendars for Thurs. Oct 25, 2018 when Learning Gizmos will host our Family Game Night. More information will be coming home soon.

Pod Tee Shirts

With our Pod Program (promoting our taking care values) we are holding a t-shirt sale. The shirts are \$10.00 and flyers were sent home this week. We have also attached one to this Skylert. Note that this is a one-time order and the deadline is Fri. Sept. 28. No late orders can be accepted. Students will be encouraged to wear these shirts during our monthly pod meetings.

Drills

With the start of school we are holding alert drills to practice with students. We held a fire drill last week, a tornado drill today and will hold a Lockdown/ALICE drill in the near future. Talk with your children about our drills and how we practice to be safe during school

Blessings in a Backpack

BIB is taking donations to help with their weekend food delivery. If you would like to donate canned chicken or ravioli or snack size bags of pretzels, there is a collection bin in our lobby.

Active Faith Food Drive

For the month of September we are collecting boxed cereal to donate to Active Faith as part of our Taking Care of Others initiative.

2018-19 Elementary Literacy Updates -a note from the South Lyon Administrative Team

In 2016, the Michigan legislature passed “Read by Grade Three” legislation in an effort to ensure that students exit 3rd grade reading at or above grade level. The legislation requires that districts administer reading assessments for students in Junior Kindergarten through third grade. In compliance with the legislation, we assess students’ reading skills at least three times over the course of the year using Michigan Department of Education approved literacy assessments.

One of the MDE approved literacy assessments used K-8 is the Measures of Academic Progress Growth assessment, or MAP Growth assessment, from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). We also use this computer-adaptive assessment for math. For additional information about the MAP Growth assessments, please see the attached handout.

The legislation also requires districts to create reading improvement plans in the fall for Junior Kindergarten through third grade students who may be at risk for not meeting grade level reading benchmarks. After completing initial assessments at the beginning of the school year, district staff review student data to identify students who may need support in meeting the end of year grade level benchmarks. An Individual Reading Improvement Plan is the document that outlines how teachers will support students to help increase their reading proficiency.

We are committed to supporting reading growth throughout a student’s academic career, not just in Junior Kindergarten through grade 3. Our fourth and fifth grade students also participate in reading assessments over the course of the year. As needed, fourth and fifth grade students may also have Individual Reading Improvement Plans created although the legislation does not mandate this.

Families will be notified by the end of October if their student will receive an Individual Reading Improvement Plan. Plans will be discussed at the November Parent/Teacher conferences.

The Read by Grade Three legislation also includes a retention component beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Beginning in 2019-20, legislation states that if a 3rd grade student is not proficient on the end of year standardized state assessment, parents will be notified in writing that their child will not be promoted to 4th grade unless he/she qualifies for an exemption (exemption examples are included in the attached PowerPoint). It is important to note that the 3rd grade retention component of the legislation does not apply to students currently in grades 3-5.

South Lyon Community Schools rarely retains elementary students. We know students who may be struggling with reading in 3rd grade often develop critical literacy skills in 4th and 5th grades. While we take seriously our responsibility to ensure students are reading at grade level every year, we also understand our equally important responsibility to support the emotional and social growth of our students.

The research on holding students back is mixed at best. We believe the decision to hold a child back should be made by the school with the input of parents, and should not be based solely on the results of one standardized test. We will continue to consult with parents to make the decision that will ultimately be in the best interest of each individual student.

For more information about the third grade reading law, please see the attached PowerPoint developed by Oakland Schools Intermediate School District.

We look forward to working together to support your student's literacy growth this year!
South Lyon Administrative Team

Report Cards (repeat announcement)

As we have shifted elementary report cards online over the past year, a few other updates have occurred to improve the elementary report card model.

There are two changes to share this year regarding elementary report cards.

All academic items on the elementary report card will be scored on a 3 point rubric:

3- meets the standard

2- approaching the standard

1- area of concern

We will be using the open ended report card comments or other communication with families in order to share when students are significantly beyond content expectations.

It is important to note that the same information will be available to families, although the method for reporting is being updated.

Parents and guardians will still be informed when their child has moved significantly beyond the content expectation.

Additionally, the Habits of Mind portion of the report card now utilizes the 3-2-1 scale as opposed to letter codes. This change is being put in place to make the scales for the academic portion and the Habits of Mind portion aligned.

The goal of both changes is a streamlined elementary report card model.

Upcoming Events

9-27-18 – 3,4,5 Curriculum Night – 5:30 Book Fair – 6:30 Presentations

10-11-18 – SIP Meeting – 8:00 am – conference room

10-12-18 – Picture Day

10-17-18 – PTO Meeting 7:00 pm

10-19-18 – Pink Out (Breast Cancer Awareness) – Wear Pink

10-25-18 – Family Game Night – watch for details coming soon

10-31-18 – Halloween Parade 2:30 pm

Attachments and Links

Pod T-Shirt flyer

Book Drive Honoring Mrs. Jordan- [Taking Care Book Drive Mrs. Jordan.pdf](#)

Dolsen Student Directory and Volunteer Opportunities <https://tinyurl.com/y99mpykl>

Family Fund Raising Opt-Out - [Dolsen Elementary School PTO Alternative Fundraiser.docx](#)

Dolsen Spirit Wear - http://kensingtonvalleyvarsity.com/dolsen_elementary_2018/shop/home

Blessings in a Backpack - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I-k6WPRKOaWGIk5oc_CxEDjV-tsoVIJPazq2agZ99Kc/edit

Please see the district web site for District approved flyers -

http://www.slcs.us/enrolling/district_approved_flyers/index.php

School Website:

http://www.slcs.us/dolsen_elementary/index.php

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