



Lake Orion Community Schools

Administration Building
315 N. Lapeer Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362

Kerri Anderson
Director of Curriculum

Phone: 248•693•5400
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September 9, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Read by Grade Three law (RBG3) to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level, which will directly affect the 2019/2020 third grade students. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing kindergarten through third grade assessments/screeners to students across the state. These assessments/screeners will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention. It will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. This is familiar to Lake Orion Community Schools as we have been administering assessments/screeners to kindergarten through third grade students for the last 10 years.

Kindergarten through third grade students will be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The RBG3 law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of the students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and strategies for you to help your child at home (Read-At-Home plan). This will be the third year LOCS teachers will be providing parents with an Individual Reading Improvement Plan and Read-At-Home Plan as it is required by the legislation.

All third grade students will be required to take a standardized state assessment (M-STEP) in the spring to determine promotion to fourth grade. If your child is reading one year below grade level at the end of third grade, you will be informed in June/July from the office of Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) in writing that your child will not be promoted to fourth grade unless he/she qualifies for a good clause exemption. Any third grade student who scores a 1252 or lower on the spring M-STEP will receive this letter from CEPI. After reviewing the third grade student scores from the spring 2019 M-STEP, only five LOCS students scored at 1252 or below. All five of these students would have received the letter from CEPI stating these students would be retained in third grade. However, of the five students, four of them would have been granted a good clause exemption and moved onto fourth grade as planned.

Reading instruction is and will continue to be a major focus. Students need strong literacy skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing and math. LOCS is working hard to ensure success of our kindergarten through third grade students. Family involvement is an important part of this effort. For more information, please visit: <https://www.lakeorionschools.org/teaching-and-learning/third-grade-reading-legislation>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kerri Anderson'.

Kerri Anderson
Director of Curriculum
Lake Orion Community Schools