

Dear Parents,

The following letter is important information about the Ohio Third Grade Reading Guarantee. For additional information, you may visit the Ohio Department of Education's website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee>

In June of 2012, the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 316 that requires the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

The law states:

- All school districts in Ohio administer a reading diagnostic assessment for each student in Kindergarten through Grade 3 by September 30.
- All school districts in Ohio to send a letter to parents if their child is "not-on-track" with their appropriate grade level for reading.
- All school districts in Ohio will create an individualized reading improvement and monitoring plan for all students who are "not-on-track in reading".
- All school districts in Ohio will provide intensive reading intervention for the students "not-on-track" to help support student learning and growth in reading.
- All school districts in Ohio will retain students who do not reach the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of the third grade on the state Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA).

If you have a child in third grade, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, the following will need to happen for your child to advance to the fourth grade.

- Except for students with special circumstances, students must meet a minimum score on the state reading test or the Reading OAA to move on to the fourth grade. In 2013-2014, the minimum score for advancement is 392. The score must be attained either in the Fall or Spring administration of the reading OAA.
- If the student remains in the third grade, the school must provide a high-performing reading teacher and 90 minutes of reading instruction each school day.
- A student can still take fourth grade classes in all other subjects, if the student is ready.
- Any student who received intensive remediation for two years and was previously retained in kindergarten through the third grade can be exempt from retention in third grade.
- Students who do not pass the OAA in the fall or spring will be able to demonstrate reading competency on a Reading Alternative Assessment approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The state is currently developing these alternative assessments which will be comparable or more rigorous than the proficient score on the Reading OAA. These assessments can be administered after the student completes an intensive summer reading remediation program.

We have completed our diagnostic assessments. Parents of those students who are "Not on Track" based on these assessment results will be receiving a letter from the school.

As part of our instructional practice we will continue to assess and progress monitor for all students and provide interventions or enrichments to help all student demonstrate growth in their reading skills.

For those students who are "Not on Track" a Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan will be developed. Your child's teacher will be working with other reading specialists to develop these plans. As a parent you are asked to be involved in the development and monitoring of your child's plan.

IN addition to the efforts at school to provide intervention for students, parents are encouraged to practice reading skills at home. The following is information and resources can be used to help your child at home as well.

*Reading First Ohio - <http://www.readingfirstohio.org/page/how-help-your-child>
Family involvement strengthens student learning and improves academic achievement. Students with active family support have better attendance, pass more classes and earn more credits resulting in higher grade point averages and higher test scores. As a result, they are more likely to continue their education beyond high school and learn social and behavioral skills that help them at home, at school and throughout life.*

*Bembo's Zoo - <http://www.bemboszoo.com/>
Watch how the letters of the alphabet re-form into animals. Preschool – K*

Sesame Street Games, Videos, Instruction- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/>

*Free Federal Websites
- http://www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=80&toplvl=78&res_feature_request=0
Resources in every subject area made available by federal agencies. More than 1,500 federally supported teaching and learning resources are included from dozens of federal agencies. New sites are added regularly.*

*Free Reading - http://www.freereading.net/index.php?title=Main_Page
An open source free reading intervention program for grades K-6*

*PBS Parents - <http://www.pbs.org/parents/>
PBS Parents is a trusted resource that's filled with information on child development and early learning. It also serves as a parent's window to the world of PBS KIDS, offering access to educational games and activities inspired by PBS KIDS programs.*

*Interactive Reading Websites - <http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/interact-read.htm>
A list of links to websites with reading resources*

International Children's Digital Library - <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

The ICDL is a rich resource which can be used in a wonderfully wide range of situations by children, parents, teachers, librarians and others from all walks of life. Children can expand upon the stories to create games; parents can extract themes to help explain important lessons; teachers can utilize the multicultural nature of the collection to teach languages; librarians can enrich community outreach programs with tales from around the world and; of course, anyone can just open a book to read for pleasure.

Reading is Fundamental - <http://www.rif.org/>

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is the largest children's literacy nonprofit in the United States. We prepare and motivate children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most. We inspire children to be lifelong readers through the power of choice. RIF provides new, free books for children to choose from and make their own.

RIF - Reading Planet - <http://www.rif.org/kids/readingplanet.htm>

Info Ohio at <http://www.infohio.org/>

INFOhio, a statewide cooperative school library and information network, supports and enriches teaching and learning by providing equitable access to quality resources for Ohio's PreK-12 community of students, educators and parents. INFOhio's components include electronic resources for schools, instructional development for teachers, and school library automation -- all promoting information literacy and media literacy through the use of technology.

Please refer to Piqua City School's webpage at www.piqua.org under that Parent and Student tab for a direct link to other great resources.

Please contact your child's teacher or the school principal with any questions you may have regarding your child's progress in reading or about the Third Grade Reading Guarantee legislation.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Anderson