

3rd grade Parent Burning Questions

- 1.) **Have you administered any pretest for Common Core? If so can or have those test scores been made available to the parents?**

Currently the district gives students Computer Adaptive Tests that are aligned to the CCGPS. Students are currently taking the test during their computer lab time. Reports will be made available once all students have completed the test. Additionally, the bi-weekly assessments that are given in the class are based on the Common Core standards that are taught daily. The results of those assessments are given to parents biweekly as assessments are given. If you would like to see the test questions or would like to know more about the tests you are welcome to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, or get more information from our Instructional Coach Ms. Luckett regarding what will be expected of students.

- 2.) **Can you give a more specific number in terms of percentages for where the kids are to date? For instance, if 25% of the children are not doing well then that leaves me to believe that it is a parent-teacher-child problem, if 75% of the children are not meeting or exceeding then it leaves me to believe that it could be a systems/method/approach to the subject/concept.**

The skills that were shared as grade level areas of weakness are skills that at least 50% of the students are struggling to master. The teachers reteach these standards in different ways, and will continue to spiral them into the curriculum to ensure mastery for all students. We inform parents of those weaknesses so they can support us in our efforts.

- 3.) **How often do you typically hold grade level meetings and why did you choose to host the first one in January?**

In the past grade level meetings were held at the beginning of the year. Based on feedback received in the Parent Engagement Survey last year, this year we decided to have a parent information session in September. This session was held after parents received results from the AIMS web assessments giving their students reading and math fluency and comprehension levels. These skills are imperative to your child's success on grade level standards. This was an open session that allowed parents to get information specific to their child's needs based on the data instead of hearing general information. Parents were also always welcomed to schedule a meeting with the child's teacher if there were any other specific concerns. At the start of the 2nd semester we continue to request one on one parent teacher conferences, so once again teachers can address any concerns and parents can get information that is specific to the progress of their individual child. Additionally, teachers have been and continue to be engaged in district led professional development afterschool for implementation of the new Common Core Standards. We scheduled this meeting at the concern and request of a few parents. The feedback we received and continue to receive from most parents reflects their pleasure with the models that allow them to get information specific to their individual children.

- 4.) **Can we have portfolio conferences again?**

Yes! We will have them in the April or May. This is another great way to get specific information about your individual child's performance. Next year, our tentative plan is to have portfolio conferences in September and May and have individual parent teacher conferences in January.

- 5.) **How can I find out my child's reading level and other assessment data? Are you still doing Universal Screeners (AIMS Web)?**

It continues to be standard practice for all students in grades K-5 to assess students in August, January, and May using AIMS web. This tells students Reading comprehension and fluency levels as well as Math fluency. Those results are sent home to parents on their data reporting form so they are able to see their students growth. This data is discussed in the one on one parent

teacher conferences. These forms will be sent home with all students the week of January 21st. If you do not receive a data reporting form please see your child's teacher or the administration.

6.) **There were several questions that asked about specific areas of student weakness (making inferences, associative properties, etc.).**

Please reach out to your child's teacher to get specific strategies and additional help with any skills you feel are at a deficit. Also, you may speak with the teacher about tutorial for help with that specific skill. In addition to reading the bi-weekly progress reports from your child's teacher, make sure you check Infinite Campus weekly to see how your child is performing on daily tasks. If you need Infinite Campus Credentials to see your child's grades please see Ms. Crosby.

7.) **What happens after students are given a pre-test?**

The pretest is given before any information is taught to see what knowledge students bring to the concept. After the pre-test the teacher implements instruction based on the students' needs. According to their pre-test performance some may need more help in areas than others. The teacher will differentiate instruction for the students to ensure each student shows growth and masters the skill. This is the process we take with each standard in each subject. This will ensure students are prepared for the CRCT in the Spring.

8.) **Can we get notices sent 1 to 2 weeks in advance?**

A calendar is sent home every month with all school and grade level activities. Flyers from the office are given to teachers to send home 1 to 2 weeks prior to an event. Teachers include reminders on students' homework calendar the week of an event and updates on events are made regularly on Facebook. Finally, our PTA send an email weekly, with upcoming events. If you do not get the PTA email, please come to the parent center and leave your email address so you can stay informed. Also, work with your child to make sure all papers get home. We often find them in the floor, and on the ground outside after they have been given to them to take home.

9.) **There were multiple questions about student preparedness for homework, specifically the choice board and technology research.**

It is the expectation that homework choice boards are thoroughly explained before they are sent home. Students are also welcomed to ask questions throughout the week as assignments are due. Please make your child's teacher aware if this is not being done. The tasks from the choice board are the type of activities that require students to produce and show how they can apply a concept they are learning to the real world. This is important for mastery of our new Common Core Standards. Students learn how to do technological research in their technology lab time with Mr. Akins, however, some of their everyday classwork requires it as well. Please encourage your child to use the skills they are learning at school at home. I observe them completing task that require internet research regularly in class on the Ipad and computers. They can do it.

10.) **Do you feel the students are prepared to excel with the new Common Core Standards?**

Because the International Baccalaureate Program Standards and Practices require that our teachers teach and assess at a higher level of rigor and have been planning instruction that is integrated across content and requires students to apply their learning to real world situations, our students and teachers were more prepared than most. This year there is going to be a learning curve for everyone. Teachers are expected to fill in any gaps. However, if students, parents and staff work together, your child will perform at high levels.