



"Home of the Bobcats"

Whiteford Agricultural School District

of the Counties of Lenawee and Monroe, Michigan

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March, 2021

Dear Third Grade Parents,

Being a good reader is critical for a student to be successful in school. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the "Read by Grade Three Law" to ensure that students are reading at or above grade level when they exit third grade. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts across the state provide K-3 assessments to their students. These assessments help to provide specific and targeted reading instruction and intervention to better meet the individual needs of each student.

At this time the Michigan Department of Education is moving forward with their state testing plans for schools. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to explain that if a third grade student scores below 1252 on the spring M-STEP, the state will send the child's family a letter stating that the student should repeat third grade. If the State follows through with this portion of the "Read by Grade Three Law", notifications from the state would be sent via certified mail by the end of May. Parents should be aware that if the state plans to continue with this expectation, this notice would be coming and someone in the household would need to sign for the letter.

Our third grade students will be taking the English Language Arts M-STEP test during the last week of April this year; April 26 – April 30, 2021. We should have preliminary test results available soon afterward. Therefore, you would be notified by the elementary office if you should expect to receive the certified letter from the state of Michigan. Whiteford Schools has a process in place to conduct parent meetings after the state sends out their notification, and is committed to working with families receiving this letter. School staff will explain possible retention in third grade as well as the process for a good cause exemption. We will support parents in completing all proper paperwork within the required 30 days after the parent receipt of the notification.

As your partners in education, we are here to support you. If you need assistance or have questions about this process, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shepherd

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Elementary Principal
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