

Important Information - Helping Your Child Learn to Read
October 15, 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

As we have embarked on an exciting year at Burge Terrace Christian School, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of reading by the end of third grade and share information regarding the supports that will be available to your child to help them learn to read by this important milestone.

The ability to read by the end of third grade is very important in order for your child to access all future learning. We know that in order to maximize student learning, it is essential that our parents/families and educators work together to support our young learners. Reading together at home, visiting the library, and encouraging a love for books can make a significant difference.

School-Based Support To Help Your Child Learn To Read:

1. NWEA MAP Growth testing and Screener: In order to provide the best support for your child, it is important to understand the skills that they are succeeding in and the skills that they need additional support to help master. Students in kindergarten, first, and second grade will participate in NWEA MAP Growth testing three times a year. Students in third grade will participate in IXL testing once a year, and ILEARN Checkpoints will be administered three times a year. In addition, new second-grade students will take a reading fluency screener. All results will be shared with parents/families in the FACTS portal. This allows schools and families to work together to provide personalized support as early as possible.

2. Multiple Opportunities To Demonstrate Reading Proficiency: Students will proactively participate in the IREAD assessment in second grade, with the option to also participate in a summer retest opportunity. Offering multiple opportunities for students to participate in IREAD prior to third grade provides another early indicator of whether a student is on track to read by the end of third grade. This information will inform continued collaboration between our educators and families to provide necessary reading support.

Students who demonstrate reading proficiency in second grade will not be required to test again. Students who are still working to master foundational reading skills will receive additional support with our school's reading interventionist and will have another opportunity to participate in IREAD in third grade, both in the spring and during the summer. All IREAD results will be shared with parents/families in the FACTS portal.

3. Free Summer Learning Opportunities: Students who need additional reading support after participating in the spring administration of IREAD in both second and third grade will have an opportunity to participate in a summer reading course. Course details will be forthcoming.

If a student is still struggling to read at the end of third grade, after receiving significant learning support, state law requires students to be retained in third grade (as a last resort). However, there are possible exemptions from retainment.

Eligible students can apply for a GCE (Good Cause Exemption) that exempts students from being retained. Listed below are the possible exemptions:

1. The student was subject to retention and has been retained in grade three for one school year.
2. The student has an intellectual disability or the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifies that retention is not appropriate, and the student's case conference committee (CCC) has determined that promotion to another grade is appropriate.
3. The student is an EL who has received services for fewer than two years and a committee consisting of:
 - a. the student's parent;
 - b. a building level administrator or designee;
 - c. a classroom teacher of service;
 - d. an EL teacher of record, if one exists; and
 - e. an EL district administrator, if one exists;determines that promotion is appropriate based on the implementation of research-based instructional practices outlined in the student's ILP.
4. The student received a score of "At Proficiency" or "Above Proficiency" on the grade three ILEARN Mathematics assessment.
5. The student has received intensive intervention in reading for two or more years and was retained more than once throughout kindergarten, grade one, or grade two.

To ensure students continue to receive the maximum support for their unique learning needs, all students who have not passed IREAD, whether they are retained in third grade for an additional year or are promoted to fourth grade, will continue to receive reading support and will retake IREAD until they pass or upon completion of sixth grade.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for allowing us to be a partner in your child's future success! We encourage you to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Ann Newton
Principal

