

# RILEY ELEMENTARY

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



September 21, 2016

This week's theme: DIBELS results

Dear Families,

Our students recently took a reading test called the DIBELS. This is a shortened version of a much-longer name, but the most important thing for you to know is that the DIBELS screens whether kids are going to struggle with reading and those who are likely to be successful with reading.

In kindergarten, the children do not engage in actual reading of text. Instead, at this time in the year, they are asked to identify the beginning sounds of words.

In first grade, children are asked to read made-up words. This is so we can see if students can decode words using letter-sound correspondences. First graders also need to identify all the sounds in a spoken word without actually seeing a copy of the printed word.

In grades 2-5, students are tested on their speed of reading and accuracy. There are a certain number of words per minute required for every grade level on grade-level text. Students are asked to retell what they read after finishing.

Students in grades 3-5 also have to take a comprehension test called the DAZE to see if they can understand a text enough to choose the correct missing word. The missing words come every seventh word or so.

The total scores are divided into benchmark, meaning students are at grade level; below benchmark, meaning that students are below where we would want them reading at this time; and well below benchmark, meaning that your child needs some intensive interventions to get to grade level by the end of the year. ***To share this data with you, we separated the percentages of students at or above grade level and those below.*** While this is only a screener for reading success or struggle, it does give us an idea about who is having difficulty and what we need to help them with.

Please review the grade level results below and ask your child's teacher where your child falls and what is being done to maintain benchmark status or move your child to benchmark status by the end of the year.

Call 801-974-8310 for more information or with questions.

KINDERGARTEN	28% of students are at or above benchmark.	72% of students are below benchmark.
FIRST GRADE	33% of students are at or above benchmark.	67% of students are below benchmark.
SECOND GRADE	43% of students are at or above benchmark.	57% of students are below benchmark.
THIRD GRADE	50% of students are at or above benchmark.	50% of students are below benchmark.
FOURTH GRADE	29% of students are at or above benchmark.	71% of students are below benchmark.
FIFTH GRADE	19% of students are at or above benchmark.	81% of students are below benchmark.