

Early Literacy is Important to All Students!

Montezuma Elementary School will once again participate in the Early Literacy Initiative (ELI) sponsored by the state of Iowa for the 2016-2017 school year. Project ELI is designed to support Iowa school districts in their efforts to ensure that ALL students are proficient in the area of reading by the end of third grade based on the FAST or aReading assessments. The initiative, supported by Iowa Code section 279.68, commits the legislature to provide supports to Iowa schools in the area of reading instruction.

Step one in the implementation of Project ELI requires all school districts to implement a universal screening tool to monitor student achievement in reading. In the past, Montezuma Elementary implemented the Dynamic Indicators of Beginning Early Literacy (DIBELS) assessment, however last year we started to utilize the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) and aReading. FAST is a research-based assessment, which has been vetted by the State of Iowa and chosen as an approved screening tool focusing on student's fluency and aReading focuses more on reading skills and comprehension. The state of Iowa provides both assessments to Iowa schools at no cost.

The FAST and aReading assessments are universal screening tools. A screening tool is designed to provide our staff with a glimpse of how a student is achieving in comparison to established norms. Both assessments indicate to us whether a student is likely to be proficient or at-risk of not being proficient on district-wide assessments. The results of the assessments will be analyzed to help us identify areas of possible concern, and if necessary point us in a direction of additional assessments. The more in-depth data will help us create progress-monitoring goals in the appropriate areas and create interventions to best promote overall student progress in the area of reading.

The graph below informs you of the tests provided to each grade level and the expected scores (updated for 2016-2017) for each test during the three testing periods. The achievement data for your student will be provided during conferences.

Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
K	Concepts of Print (8) Letter Names (20) Onset Sounds (12) Letter Sounds (5) Early Reading Composite (34) aReading (NA)	Word Segmenting (26) Nonsense Words (8) Onset Sounds (16) Letter Sounds (29) Early Reading Composite (52) aReading (417)	Word Segmenting (30) Nonsense Words (12) Sight Words - 50 (20) Letter Sounds (41) Early Reading Composite (65) aReading (435)
1	Sight Words – 150 (17) Word Segmenting (27) Nonsense Words (9) Sentence Reading (14) Early Reading Composite (34) aReading (435)	Sight Words – 150 (50) Word Segmenting (31) Nonsense Words (16) CBM Reading (43) Early Reading Composite (55) aReading (454)	Sight Words – 150 (67) Word Segmenting (32) Nonsense Words (21) CBM Reading (71) Early Reading Composite (68) aReading (471)
2	CBM Reading (58) * Correct words per minute aReading (469)	CBM Reading (87) * Correct words per minute aReading (481)	CBM Reading (106) * Correct words per minute aReading (489)
3	CBM Reading (90) * Correct words per minute aReading (487)	CBM Reading (116) * Correct words per minute aReading (497)	CBM Reading (131) * Correct words per minute aReading (503)
4	CBM Reading (116) * Correct words per minute aReading (500)	CBM Reading (136) * Correct words per minute aReading (507)	CBM Reading (150) * Correct words per minute aReading (513)
5	CBM Reading (133) * Correct words per minute aReading (509)	CBM Reading (151) * Correct words per minute aReading (517)	CBM Reading (163) * Correct words per minute aReading (522)
6	CBM Reading (142) * Correct words per minute aReading (516)	CBM Reading (159) * Correct words per minute aReading (523)	CBM Reading (172) * Correct words per minute aReading (527)

The Assessment tool is only the first step to implementing Project ELI. Please be watching for more information in the near future.