

Dear Parents:

August 2010

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! Hopefully you have had a wonderful summer with your children building many memories!

We have been very busy at Fairview. Many changes are coming our way, particularly in the area of literacy that the staff has been preparing for over the past several weeks. As you may or may not know, the district has developed the Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP) to help better meet the needs of all MPS students in the areas of reading and writing. Along with this, the district also adopted new reading textbooks for all grades to supplement curriculum in these areas.

What is the Comprehensive Literacy Plan?

The MPS Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP) was created after an External Literacy Review in 2008 to develop a plan to raise the achievement of MPS students in the areas of reading and writing. The Plan consists of the new national Common Core Standards, which can be found by grade level and content area at www.corestandards.org. Following the Plan, educators will be teaching using the instructional design of whole-group, small-group, whole group, which will allow for more efficient differentiation for all types of learners. Classroom environments will share common elements such as word walls, literacy work stations, and classroom libraries that will help to build consistency across grade levels. The new reading textbook series in each grade will also be used as a tool to meet the requirements of the Plan. Your child's teacher(s) will be sharing strategies that you can use to assist your child on their websites/wikis or newsletters.

Students in grades K4-8 will also be taking the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) this year in place of DiscoveryEducation benchmark assessments in the areas of reading and math. These assessments will occur three times a year and will be used to determine progress and to help teachers make instructional decisions for their classroom.

Finally, Fairview is always looking for volunteers to work with individual or small groups of students during ROAR (7:50-8:20am). If this is something you might be interested in doing, please contact me or there will be a sign-up table at both Orientation Nights (August 24/25 from 6-7:30pm).

If at any time during the year, you have questions or comments about literacy, testing, or need volunteer information, please feel free to contact me at 546-7724 or delain@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Laura Wensink
Literacy Coach