

# Drew Elementary



October 11, 2018

Dear Grade 3-5 Parent,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes to elementary instruction and grading in Reading Language Arts. In order for students to be college and career ready, they must be able to read and comprehend literary and informational texts independently and proficiently within the grade level band. This means that all students will be taught to read and demonstrate comprehension with grade level texts. It is the role of the teacher to adjust lessons so that students are able to read and engage with these texts.

### *Students Who Need Support*

When reading grade level texts, some students who need support may only be able to read short passages with the teacher's support, but should work their way towards longer passages throughout the school year. When a teacher identifies that a student is struggling with the text, they will identify areas of need and provide Guided Reading as an intervention for the student(s) using texts below the grade level band. Therefore, students who need support will be instructed with text ON and BELOW the grade level band.\*

### *Grading Students in Reading*

All elementary students will be graded based on their ability to read and comprehend books at the grade level. This means that some students who were not reading on grade level in the past and received A or B letter grades may receive lower grades. By reporting a student's performance at the grade level standard, parents will have a better indication of their child's strengths and needs compared to their child's grade level standard. In addition, this grading is more aligned to the grading and reporting in middle school.

Please be reminded that elementary grades are standards based and not based on a percentage. The entry of multiple grade level assignments and formative assessment grades in the grade book will produce the following grades on the report card.

- A- Student consistently demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards
- B- Student frequently demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards
- C- Student periodically demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards
- D- Student rarely demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards

### *Changes to Reading Levels*

Students who read and receive instruction in text within and above the grade level band during small group instruction will be marked ABOVE reading grade level on the report card. Students who need support to read the grade level text and require Guided Reading intervention will be marked BELOW reading grade level. Students who experience the appropriate level of challenge with grade level text will be marked ON reading grade level. Teachers will use the Measures of Academic Progress-Reading (MAP-R) Lexile scores, District Quarterly Assessments and grade level assignments to help determine the appropriate text for each student. MAP-R Lexile scores are located on the myMCPS Parent Portal in your child's Document Library.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions about your child's reading progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal