



# Elementary News...

February 2019

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## This Month at a Glance

### Important Dates

- February 8 - Author Skype Session
- February 11 - BOE Meeting
- February 15-18 - No School - Presidents' Weekend
- February 21 - Shortened Day- Winter Conferences
- February 25 - BOE Meeting


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## A Message from Ms. Guidry

Recently, we have had a number of inquiries regarding cold weather, outdoor recess, and the building policy. Outdoor play is always our preference when it comes to recess. Allowing students to play on the playground or on the blacktop (if it's too wet) provides much needed space for students to run and engage in physical activity. While we have designated indoor recess locations and activities for students, indoor days do not allow for the same time of physical activity as outdoor days.

However, if the temperature, including when the wind chill is factored in, dips below the freezing point recess will be indoors. Last week, when temperatures started to dip, we did have an outdoor recess day that should have been an indoor day. Please know that we have reviewed our procedures as we take the health and safety of students seriously at the Elementary School.

When the temperature is warmer than 32°F and conditions on the blacktop or playground allow for students to play safely, we will have recess outside. As the mom of a 5th grader who "forgets" his coat every morning, I appreciate the challenges dressing for winter temperatures can present. Please have your child(ren) come to school dressed appropriately for the colder weather. During the winter months, your child(ren) should come to school with a coat, hat, and gloves each day. We will remind students to wear all their outdoor gear to recess as well! Also, kindly label each of these items with your child's name and remind him/her to place their cold weather gear in a pocket or coat sleeve so that they do not get misplaced.



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## Nursing Notes

Parents/guardians must bring in their student's medications and accompanying physician's orders to the nurse, as this is the school's policy. **No student is permitted to bring in medications.** Medication order forms can be found on the nurse's website.

Should your child be ill or late to school for any reason, **the parent or guardian must** call the school's absentee health line to report the absence. The number is 732-786-0950 then follow the prompts.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Lori Blazier

School Nurse


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## Ask Your Student About This Month's Character Virtue...

February's Character Virtue...

**Kindness**

Each month the Elementary School will adopt and celebrate a different character virtue through read aloud, class discussions, and everyday reminders!



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## Spotlight on....

### Intervention


Here at the Elementary School, we have a variety of ways to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. Our reading and math intervention program is one example of how we support students' developing academic skills.

In the fall, intervention specialists review assessment and classroom data to identify students who may need additional support in reading and math. If identified, our intervention specialists work closely with classroom teachers to design a program that will provide additional support in a child's area of need. Some students need additional support with decoding or sounding out words, while others may need help with comprehension, and others may need support in breaking down complex word problems into more manageable steps.

Specific interventions do not always occur in different settings nor are they always provided by an intervention specialist. In fact, most students benefit from "Tier 1" supports. Students approximating grade level standards in one or more areas, or those who are reading just below grade, level benefit from Tier 1 support provided by their classroom teacher. Tier 1 supports include small group instruction, one-to-one conferences, pre-teaching, and re-teaching. Intervention specialists may push-in to help provide Tier 1 supports and consult with classroom teachers to monitor progress. All students, whether identified for intervention or not, benefit from small group instruction and other Tier 1 supports.

Sometimes students need additional support outside of the classroom. These supports are known as Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. Students receiving Tier 2 or 3 interventions may be having difficulty meeting several grade-level standards or lack foundational pre-requisite skills. Intervention specialists meet with students several times a week in small groups or one-to-one settings to provide pre-requisite instruction or remediate basic skills. These interventions are designed to be short-term. The goal of a pull-out intervention program is to close specific skill gaps. Think of the intervention teacher and the classroom teacher as being on the same relay team. The intervention teacher remediates a specific set of skills, closing the gap, before handing off the baton to the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher will provide differentiated instruction in the classroom to help the student cross the finish line.

During January and February, our intervention team works closely with classroom teachers to review student progress. It's at this point in the year, that students receiving Tier 2 or 3 interventions may no longer need pull-out intervention services. While they may be approximating grade level standards, they have enough command over prerequisite skills to be supported by their classroom teacher with Tier 1 supports. Families will be notified if your child is ready to be exited from pull-out intervention. Sometimes, students who may not have needed Tier 2 or 3



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interventions in the fall may need them headed into the spring as grade level expectations increase. Once again, families are notified if pull-out intervention may benefit your child.

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