



Welcome back! Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a fun time during our holiday break.

We have a lot going on in January, so get ready to do your best work so you can learn a lot!

During January, students will take a MAP test that measures their academic growth in reading and math. Encourage your child to take the test seriously, do their best, and take their time.

Fourth Graders

- Breaking down big words into syllables to help with decoding. The students will learn about different syllable types and how those word parts can help them to decode, or “sound out” words.
- Answering questions about what has been read. The kinds of questions will change as the year progresses. These are based on fourth grade reading standards. Students will be challenged to find the best text evidence to support their answers about what they read.
- Responding to writing prompts about texts. This helps everyone get comfortable with the writing portion of our state language arts test.
- Learning to read and spell high frequency words with ease.

Third Graders

- Reading fluidly – not in a stilted or stiff way (like a robot). Using expression that reflects what is happening in the story.
- Answering questions about what has been read. The kinds of questions will change as the year progresses. These are based on third grade reading standards.
- Learning to read question words that we often see on tests, in school assignments, etc., (i.e., sequence, compare, contrast, problem, solution, evidence, characteristics, etc.)
- Reading high-frequency words with ease.
- Learning how to decode words using skills taught during Orton-Gillingham lessons in language arts classrooms and during interventions.

Orton-Gillingham Groups

- During December, it came to my attention that students in my OG groups still struggle with syllable identification and how to use different types of syllables to read unfamiliar words. We began to work on that in December, but we need to do more. That will be a learning focus at the beginning of January. Then we will move on to what was previously scheduled for December: initial consonant blends, final consonant blends, ng, nk, magic E.

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Contact Information (937) -548-3185 ethomas@gcswave.com