



LITERACY

September 21, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

To quote LaVar Burton, "Reading is fundamental" to success. According to data and some of the observations that I have made in our classrooms, we have many struggling readers. We want to eliminate the struggle. Literacy is critical to success in all subjects including math and science. **Literacy= reading and writing.**

Because of its importance, we are devoting 90-120 minutes, dependent upon grade level, to literacy for this very reason. Here is what we need from our parents especially those of students in grades K-4:

- Get a package of index cards or construction paper.
- On the back of this letter is the Dolch Word List. Make flash cards with these words

These words are the most frequently read words that will improve reading fluency. Ask your child to read these Dolch Words. If your child is in the 1st grade and cannot successfully read the Pre-Primer and Primer word list, then you know you have a struggling reader. If you have a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grader and they are struggling with the primer and pre-primer lists, then we are in a state of emergency with literacy and you must become our partner with reading.

We need your support to make sure that students read and practice these words daily. Please limit the amount of time your students play video games or watch T.V. If you do not help us improve your child's reading now, they will struggle forever. It is that serious. Parents/Guardians are the first and most important teacher.

We will begin after-school tutoring and Saturday School beginning on October 3 where we use Hip Hop to teach content subjects. Contact your child's teacher to check on his or her performance. We have tons of books to aid in reading.

Last, if your child loves to be on the computer or a cell phone, then restrict that screen time to learning to improve reading. **Go to: YouTube. Search for Jack Hartmann Sight Words.** These are the types of videos that will help keep your child become engaged in learning and will help improve reading.

Put this date on your calendar: **Monday, October 12, 2020.** We will have **Parent-Teacher Conferences from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 and then 4-5:45 pm. You will set up an appointment for a 15-minute conference. This will also be the same day as our Title I-Family Literacy Night which is from 6:00-7:00 pm.** We will demonstrate how to work with your child in reading and math.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheila L. Sherman
Interim Principal, East Academy
Superintendent