



# PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence"*

## **Troxell Building**

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## **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The teachers and administrators in the Parkland School District are committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, our district has chosen to use the Universal Screener, STAR Early Literacy Enterprise and Star Reading Enterprise, to help us examine how your child is doing in learning important reading skills.

STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests. A computer-adaptive test continually adjusts the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. These assessments are completed on the computer and take about 15-20 minutes. The entire class can be assessed in one sitting, which is very efficient use of time.

STAR Early Literacy Enterprise (Pre-K – 3) is a diagnostic assessment of early literacy skills. STAR Early Literacy tracks development in the following areas:

#### Word Facility and Skills

- Alphabetic Principle
- Concept of Word
- Visual Discrimination
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Structural Analysis
- Vocabulary

#### Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning

- Sentence-Level Comprehension
- Paragraph-Level Comprehension

STAR Reading Enterprise is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills for independent readers and tracks development in the following areas:

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literacy Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text

All K-2 students will be assessed a minimum of three times per year. Students in grades 4 and 5 will be assessed as needed. The information gained from the assessment is used as an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular reading skill. It allows teachers to monitor students' growing literacy skills and students' progress toward becoming independent readers. STAR also helps us identify children that may need extra help to become good readers and allows us to monitor their progress while they are receiving the extra support. This data assists us in planning for their instruction. Results may also be used to make decisions about how well the district's overall reading program is working for all children. STAR results are never used to grade your child.

Our goal is to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank you for your efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Neikam

Curriculum Supervisor of Elementary Education