



HUGH MERCER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
2100 COWAN BOULEVARD
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22401
PHONE: (540) 372-1115 • FAX (540) 372-6753

September 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning September 14th, all Hugh Mercer students will be scheduled to take the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). PALS is a state-mandated reading screening given to all K-3 students in Virginia. The purpose is to identify students who would benefit from additional reading support.

In addition to the PALS, kindergarten students will be scheduled to take the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program or VKRP. The VKRP is designed to measure math, self-regulation and social skills. The VKRP complements the PALS and helps provide a comprehensive measure of our youngest students' school readiness.

In order to administer the PALS and VKRP screenings to your student, it will be necessary for you to bring your student to school for one-on-one testing. Testing appointments will be scheduled from September 14th through the middle of October. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you to schedule an appointment for PALS testing. Families of kindergarten students will need to set one appointment for the VKRP and another appointment for PALS.

Every effort is being made to provide a safe testing environment. Teachers will be wearing face coverings, gloves, and face shields. We ask that you have your child wear a face covering and bring a pencil to his/her testing session. The session will last approximately one hour.

Thank you for your support as we begin PALS testing! If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,


Kisha Frye
Assistant Principal


Stephanie Teri
Testing Coordinator