

A photograph of three young students sitting at a table in a library, reading books. The student on the left is a girl with blonde hair wearing a white polo shirt with a 'St. Martin's' logo. The student in the middle is a girl with blonde hair wearing a light blue polo shirt with a 'St. Martin's' logo. The student on the right is a girl with dark hair wearing a blue and green plaid vest over a light blue shirt. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The background shows a bookshelf filled with colorful books.

Lower School Reading

ASSESSING AND SUPPORTING EARLY READING GROWTH

Early in the school year, teachers administer curriculum-based reading and phonics assessments to prepare for small group instruction. To support classroom instruction, our Student Support Services team conducts reading fluency and foundational skills assessments for all K-3 students three times a year, providing teachers with additional data to inform their instruction. Through a balance of whole-group lessons, small-group instruction, and one-on-one support, students are learning to listen closely, think deeply, and share ideas with increasing stamina and independence. Looking ahead, the strong foundation in literacy skills established this semester will empower students to apply their reading, writing, and communication abilities across subjects during the exciting cross-curricular projects this spring. We look forward to celebrating and showcasing their accomplishments with you next semester!

KINDERGARTEN SMALL GROUPS - Kindergarteners are busy in small groups exploring the sounds of letters! From sorting CVC words to hunting for digraphs in a turkey-themed word search, students are building reading skills while sharing the joyful energy of reading books on their own.

FIRST-GRADE WRITING SKILLS - 1st graders are further developing their writing skills as they practice generating ideas, story structure, descriptive words, revision strategies, and clear communication.

SECOND GRADE NOVEL STUDY - 2nd graders are developing their visualization skills through a novel study of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Roald Dahl's use of descriptive adjectives and figurative language helps students vividly imagine the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Willy Wonka's world.

THIRD GRADE STORY DETECTIVES - 3rd graders explore story elements and identify every part of the plot from exposition and rising action to climax, falling action, and resolution.

FOURTH GRADE PARTNER WORK - 4th graders putting key reading strategies into practice, having great discussions about their independent books, and recording their thoughts in their workbooks.