

RIVERBEND ELEMENTARY

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Jill Chambers, Principal

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GREAT STARTS BEGIN AT RIVERBEND

September 3, 2013

Dear Third Grade Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to have your child as a part of our third grade at Riverbend Elementary. As we begin the year, we wanted to inform you of some important changes in North Carolina law about reading achievement.

North Carolina state law now requires that third graders who are not reading at a proficient level on the end-of-grade test be given extra attention. If your child does not score proficient on the end-of-grade test in reading at the end of third grade, here is what will happen:

1. Your child will be re-tested to ensure the score is valid.
2. If your child is not proficient on the re-test, he or she will be invited to a summer reading camp to help them improve reading skills. This camp is at no charge to you and more information about the camp will be given in the spring.
3. **If you do not agree to send your child to summer reading camp, your child will repeat third grade the following school year in order to build stronger reading skills.**
4. At the end of summer reading camp, your child's reading will be retested. If he or she scores proficient, your child will be eligible for promotion to the fourth grade. If your child does not score proficient, he or she will be placed in a fourth grade class the following year with a third-grade retention label. Ninety minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction will be provided daily in these classes. Your child will be eligible to retake the third grade reading test in late October to achieve a mid-year promotion and have the third-grade retention label removed. Your child will remain in the same fourth grade class for the entire school year and continue to receive extra reading support. Throughout the year, fourth grade standards will be taught.

We will be updating you on your child's progress towards reading proficiency throughout third grade by issuing quarterly reading proficiency reports. In addition, there are many ways you can help your child to become a better reader:

- Set aside time for your child to read every day and/or for you to read to your child.
- Encourage your child to talk and write about things that interest him or her.
- Maintain reading logs documenting your child's reading each day.
- Attend information sessions provided by the school and conferences throughout the year, beginning with:
 - **3rd Grade Parent Night—Monday, September 9 at 5:30 pm**

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact your child's teacher or principal. We are committed to making our children better readers!

Upon receipt of this letter, you acknowledge notification of the new North Carolina law requiring students to be proficient in reading at the end of third-grade. Please keep this information on file for the records.

Thank you,

Jill S. Chambers
Principal

School, parents, and community working together to provide each student an appropriate learning experience
in a positive, secure environment.