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Dear Families,

I am writing to share information about one of the ways in which our PreK-3 students will be assessed in reading this year. Our teachers have many ways to check your child's reading development and growth, including assessments of their **early literacy skills**. These brief "screenings" make it possible to see if a student is at risk of developing reading difficulties, including risk of dyslexia. Our screening tool does not diagnose dyslexia or other disabilities, but it does help us understand which students may need additional support to be successful readers. We are required to assess students in grades PreK-3 at least twice per year consistent with [Massachusetts regulation 603 CMR 28.03\(1\)\(f\)](#).

Our district uses a screening assessment called Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills ([DIBELS](#)) for grades K-3 and the [Early Bird](#) Screener for Prek students who are 4 years old and above. These screening assessments are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Your child will be assessed two or three times during the school year, depending on the grade level. These skills, which will vary depending on the students' grade level, include knowledge of letters and sounds, word reading, reading comprehension and/or reading fluency. The tentative schedule for this school year is shown below:

Grades 1 & 2

September, 2024

January, 2025

May 2025

Kindergarten

November 2024

May 2025

Preschool

January 2025

April 2025

Following the DIBELS administration, a team at our school will review all students' results. At the fall parent/guardian teacher conferences, teachers will share a report that provides an overview of each student's performance. If your child scores "significantly below benchmarks," we will contact you within 30 school days of testing to discuss how we can support your child.

Please reach out if you would like additional information.

-For questions about the early literacy universal screening, contact Mrs. Skeffington at 508-699-1304

-For questions about your child's testing results, contact your child's teacher.

Screening is another step that helps students at our school become proficient readers, and we are grateful for the continued support and partnership with the Jackson School families.

Best,

Kristen Skeffington

Principal