

March 27, 2017

Families of Third Grade Students:

Phoenix Elementary School District is committed to providing each child we serve with a high-quality education. We have set high academic expectations to ensure our students are prepared to be successful in the next grade, as well as in high school, college and career.

This Spring, your child will complete the AzMERIT assessment for the first time. This assessment is aligned to the more rigorous Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. AzMERIT is just one tool we use to see if students are on the track to success.

All students in the District, grades 3 – 8, will complete the AzMERIT assessment on the computer. Our staff is providing opportunities for students to become more competent users of the computer, as well as completing “sample tests” that are similar in format to AzMERIT. We want to be sure our students know how to use computer skills, such as highlighting, scrolling, and keyboarding – to name a few.

Earlier this school year, you received a letter from me informing you of the Arizona law requiring all students in third grade to read proficiently before being promoted to 4th grade. Specifically, the law states:

“A requirement that a pupil not be promoted from third grade if the pupil obtains a score on the reading portion of the AIMS test, or successor test (AzMERIT), that demonstrates that the pupil is reading far below the third grade level.”

Arizona Revised Statute 15-701.

Your child is under the requirements of this legislation and AzMERIT results will determine their promotion to 4th grade. While we expect most 3rd graders will be promoted to fourth grade, some students may need to attend summer school to meet requirements for promotion to 4th grade. We expect test results for third grade students will be available by mid-May. Your principal and/or child’s teacher will provide you with information at that time.

We look forward to working together to ensure that your child and every child in Phoenix Elementary School District #1 becomes a successful reader.

Sincerely,



Mr. Larry Weeks
Chief Executive Officer