

MARTINS FERRY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

5001 AYERS-LIMESTONE ROAD
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to inform parents of "*The Third Grade Reading Guarantee*". The Ohio legislature passed new requirements for school districts in SB316. The new requirement will affect our kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students. This mandate will be implemented in all schools across the state beginning with the 2012-13 school year. Starting with the 2014-15 school year, all students entering the third grade must demonstrate a certain level of competency in reading before advancing to the fourth grade. This level will start between "limited" and "proficient" and increase over time.

According to SB316, school districts in Ohio are required to administer an English Language Arts (ELA) diagnostic assessment by September 30th of each school year to students in grades kindergarten through grade three. If the diagnostic assessment indicates that the student is "not on track" to be reading at grade level by the end of the year, the Martins Ferry School District will provide the parents with a written notice that the school has identified a reading deficiency with their child.

If your child is identified as "not on track", the school district will provide reading intervention, develop a reading improvement and monitoring plan, and communicate with the parent the progress of their child. Students will be provided intervention during their normal school day. Parents will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss their child's reading improvement and monitoring plan. It is important for parents to understand that the student must attain the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of grade three to advance to the fourth grade. Therefore, parents will be encouraged to participate and provide input.

Again, *The Third Grade Reading Guarantee* is a new state requirement for all public school districts in Ohio. The Martins Ferry City School District will continue to share information on this new mandate as we become aware of it. If you have any questions regarding the *Third Grade Reading Guarantee*, please contact Mr. Jim Fogle, elementary building principal, at 635-2444.

Respectfully,

Dirk Fitch, Superintendent

Mission Statement:

The mission of Martins Ferry City Schools is to develop critical thinkers and responsible citizens in a positive and safe learning environment.