



Yukon Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
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Dear YKSD Parents,

You are essential to your child's success in school. Research has shown that the most important thing that a parent can do to help their child acquire language and prepare their child for school is to read to them. Across the United States, under half (47.8%) of all children five and under are read to everyday, which means that over 13 million children go to bed at night without a bedtime story. Reading to a child is one of the easiest ways to prevent future learning problems, and yet many people do not fully understand the enormous, positive impact that this simple act has on the life of a child.

It is our goal to ensure all students of Yukon Koyukuk School District are proficient in reading. Our focus will be centered on providing solid instruction, progress monitoring, intervention where needed, and parent involvement.

Solid Instruction: the district has adopted rigorous reading curriculum introduced this year. On-going training has been offered to ensure its implementation and teachers are utilizing best practices in their classroom.

Progress Monitoring: students are assessed three times a year using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This assessment identifies each student's strengths as well as identifies children needing help in reading, math and writing. MAP allows comparison of your child's progress to the performance of peers and their individual growth at each benchmark.

Interventions: Students in grades K-3 who are identified as not proficient will have individual reading plans designed. In early February, teachers will be sending detailed reports home and following up to schedule conferences for students in need of additional support. For students in grades 4-12, each school offers a range of interventions through general education during the school day.

Parent Involvement: The greatest and longest lasting benefits have been shown in children who are read to three or more times a week (Markland, 2011). The research is clear, reading to a child can make learning and achieving in school easier. Please read to your child each night. Picture books and language in simple children's books enhance children's learning and vocabulary because of the conversations between parent and child that take place around books and stories. Some of the best books to read to children are rhyming books because they help emphasize recurring patterns of sounds that are particularly helpful to the child when they begin to sound out words and letters (Fox, 2001).

Together we can make the difference in the success of our students in Yukon Koyukuk School District. We hope that you will visit your child's classroom, talk with their teacher about their progress, and ask questions regarding their proficiency and their individual plans.

Sincerely,
Kerry Boyd, Superintendent

The mission of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, in active partnership with its families and communities, is to provide our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to become contributing members of their families, communities and society.