Dear CMS Parent,

The North Carolina General Assembly’s Read to Achieve Program is part of the Excellent Public Schools Act. The goal of the Read to Achieve program is to ensure that every student reads on at least a third grade reading level before the end of third grade.

We have been working with your child at Mountain Island Elementary School to ensure a successful third grade year.  It is important to understand the importance of the Read to Achieve Program and how we can work together to support your child through the end of the school year.

The law states that if a third grade student is not reading at grade level by the end of third grade, the student will have to either repeat the third grade or attend a free, district-sponsored summer reading camp.

All CMS third graders students took the NC Beginning of Grade (BOG) reading test at the beginning of the year and they will take the End of Grade (EOG) exam in late May.   If students score a three or a four on the EOG test, they are eligible for promotion to the 4th grade.  If a student does not pass the EOG reading test, we will consider other factors to see if the student is at grade level or can be exempted from Read to Achieve requirements.

Students who meet at least one of the criteria below may be exempt:

* Limited English Proficient student with less than two years of ESL instruction
* Has an Individual Education Plan and is assessed on the NCExtend 1 or NCExtend 2
* Has received reading interventions and previously been retained more than once in kindergarten, first, second or third grade
* Received a score of 442 or higher on the 3rd grade Beginning of Grade Assessment
* Earns a Level P or above on the TRC portion of the mClass benchmark assessments
* Completes a Read to Achieve Portfolio with a combined score of 70% or higher on 3 passages for each standard
* Proficient on the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) with a RIT score of 197.

If your child does not meet any of the criteria above, he or she will be invited to attend a free, district sponsored reading camp for six weeks June 23-July 30. This summer reading camp is mandatory for students that do not meet one of the requirements stated above. If your child does not score a three or a four on the EOG reading test, has not proven to read at grade level, does not meet one of the exemptions and does not attend the free reading camp, he or she will be retained in the third grade.

All of the staff at Mountain Island Elementary School believe in your child and will continue to work with your child on a daily basis to support their success.  If you have any questions, please contact your child’s third grade teacher.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Ruppenthal