

LOWREY SCHOOL

February 2017

Dear Families,

Our students have been very busy with so many things. They are completing their NWEA testing. Be sure to review their report cards and familiarize yourself with their NWEA scores that will be posted in their report card. Students should be demonstrating a growth in their score. If you should notice that your child's score dropped significantly, we highly encourage you to meet with your child's teacher to better understand how to specifically assist your son or daughter. Our mission at Lowrey School is to work collaboratively with you to help your children reach their optimal potential. Our ongoing efforts strive to continuously bridge the achievement gap and ensure that every student is functioning at or above grade level. You are always welcome to come in and see anyone of us in the office to further assist you.



In addition, all 8th graders will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, March 1st. This is a test that will help prepare them for the SAT which a college placement exam. Please discuss the importance of taking this test seriously with your child.

Lastly, please make it a habit to check your child's school work. Teacher blogs are a great way to know what is happening and Parent Connect will tell you how your child is doing and if he/she is missing any assignments. All students should be reading a minimum of 30 minutes a night. This is very important to help improve comprehension and vocabulary acquisition. Together, we can help our children succeed.

Sincerely,

Rima Younes
Principal
Lowrey School

Morning Supervision: As a reminder, Lowrey students are not to arrive to school until 7:45 a.m. They will be required to stand outside unless it is raining or below 20 degrees. Students should not arrive early, unless they are going to the cafeteria for breakfast or going to morning tutoring. Parents are not permitted to walk down to the cafeteria with their children to breakfast. We want to help our students build independence.

Dismissal Time: Lately, we have noticed that many of our parents are starting to arrive to school before the designated release times (2:55 for Middle School, 3:00 for Elementary) to pick up their children. Furthermore, when elementary parents are in the hallway before the end of the school day, it becomes very difficult for the teachers to keep students focused. Students become distracted when they see parents in the hallways. Teachers are instructed to walk all students outside at dismissal time. We would like all parents to wait either in their cars or outside their child's exit door.

Bus Riders: If your children ride the bus, they must report directly to the bus at dismissal time. This will ensure that the bus is departing the school and dropping off students at home in a timely manner. Please remind your children that waiting or looking for friends while the bus waits for them is not acceptable.

Appropriate Dress

Students must have the appropriate clothing when they come to school. A warm jacket, pants, boots, gloves, and a scarf are all important so that your child can enjoy himself/herself safely at and around the school. We're also noticing that some students repeatedly leave their jackets behind. We will continue to remind them. Please support us by having a conversation with your child about wearing the appropriate clothing to school and using their jackets and gloves while at recess.

Overall Behavior

As we get into the holiday season, the students will be experiencing some time away from school as a result of holiday breaks. Please be sure to maintain high expectations in regard to student behavior. This includes interaction with their siblings and friends. Ensuring that conversations about behavior continue with your child will lead to an easier transition back to school and a culture of high standards for student behavior.

Response to Bullying

You can support us by making sure that your child doesn't bully others emotionally or physically, and also by ensuring that they don't stand by or be part of bullying. Although this problem isn't unique to our district, we are addressing it with passion to ensure our students have a safe and healthy experience at school. Please contact your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions, and we will be happy to talk to you about ways you can address these issues with your child.



IMPORTANT

Dear Families,

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) tests will be administered to 3rd grade students (Math and ELA), 4th grade students (Math, ELA and Science), 5th grade students (Math, ELA, and Social Studies), 6th grade students (Math and ELA), 7th grade students (Math, ELA Science), and 8th grade students (Math, ELA, and Social Studies) at Lowrey School. The M-STEP window begins on April 10th and runs through the end of May this year. The M-STEP Exam is taking the place of the MEAP. Please make sure that you are **NOT** planning on going away during this time. Students **will not** be excused as this test is mandatory. The M-STEP tests are not timed and are administered to students in several sessions to avoid test fatigue. Test items are multiple-choice and constructed-response (essay) items. This test is administered on computers. Therefore, please continue to encourage your children to type and complete tasks on a computer with a mouse whenever possible.

Results on M-STEP tests are based on how students perform compared to set standards, and not compared to other students. M-STEP results are used in a variety of ways. At the class level, your child's teacher(s) uses the results to identify strengths and learning needs, and to work with you to plan ways to meet those needs. At the school level, M-STEP results are used to identify curriculum and/or instructional changes that may need to be made to better educate students.



Tips on helping your child prepare for M-STEP:

- Avoid scheduling appointments for your child that would take him or her out of a scheduled testing session.
- Let your child know that the tests are important.
- Encourage your child to try for his/her best so the results will reflect your child's knowledge as accurately as possible.
- Encourage your child to relax and to feel positive about testing.
- A good night's sleep and a good breakfast always help performance.
- Be sure your child is at school on time.
- When your child returns home, ask about the testing and how he/she thought everything went.
- Support your child's best efforts with encouragement and praised

Have your child repeat the following to you:

I Will Beat the M-STEP by Doing My Best!!

Tell your child: "You will do great on the M-STEP". The M-STEP is just a review of what you **learned** this year and is not a timed test. Make sure to take your time. Thank you, and please let us know if you have any questions by stopping by or calling the school at: 313-827-1800.



With Respect,

Zahra Zreik
Assistant Principal

From the desk of the Kindergarten Teachers:

How to build your child's language skills in Kindergarten...

Children build vocabulary and oral language skills doing many of the things they love to do: drawing, playing with dolls and stuffed animals, playing with cars, building with blocks, dressing up, and playing pretend in a kitchen or home center. The language and conversation kids use during these play times provide a strong literacy base for a child entering kindergarten. The type of dialogue that children use while playing in a home center will be very different from the language they use while building with blocks, so having a variety of activities for your child to choose from will encourage a broad range of vocabulary words incorporated into their daily play. As you are playing with your child, or observing their play, use language and vocabulary that will help them grow. Identify and explain the uses for different objects in the kitchen and use interesting language when playing with stuffed animals and dolls. Young children are like sponges, ready to soak up the language around them!

Spending time engaged in conversation during your shared experiences will also help build vocabulary and oral language. Taking walks, going for bike rides, heading to the park, flying a kite, cooking together, visiting a farm or petting zoo, and even raising pets at home can all be terrific experiences for kids and give you lots to talk about. Be sure to talk to your child throughout these day-to-day experiences, using language that helps them grow in their vocabulary development. Too often parents, teachers, and caregivers will use simple words with kids. While it's important to explain things to your child, using words within their developmental level, it's also important to remember that kids can handle a lot more than we give them credit for. When you're cooking with your child, ask them to get the measuring cup instead of calling it a scooper. They may have never heard that term before, but suddenly it becomes part of their vocabulary. Let's continue to make literacy our #1 priority as language is the foundation to educational success!!!

Hello First Grade Families - We can't believe January is over. NWEA testing is wrapping up. In science, we are finishing our weather unit. Luckily this winter has given us a variety of weather to analyze. Our social studies unit

on needs, wants, consumer and producers is also finishing up. We have been very busy. Math concepts are getting more challenging. The students have really been using all the strategies we have been developing all year. Please remember to have your child draw out their thinking for story problems and ask them to explain how they got their answers. As always read to and with your child daily and ask questions after reading. What connection did you make? Can you retell the story? What lesson is the author trying to teach you? Sharing a book and the love for reading is priceless!

The Importance of Teaching Vocabulary:

When expanding a student's vocabulary, be mindful of its importance. Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read. For a student to really know a word, they must use it. It is important to give a student many opportunities to use and master a new vocabulary word. Additionally, understanding vocabulary words is imperative to reading comprehension. Readers must understand "vocabulary" words to know what they are reading. For students to master a word's meaning, they should be exposed to the "new vocabulary word" often. Eventually, after hearing the "word(s)" multiple times, students will store the new vocabulary in their long-term memory. Here are a few tips to help teach vocabulary words:

- Read rigorously
- Align a picture to go hand and hand with the vocabulary word.
- Use the word often
- Teach students to actively engage with vocabulary: Highlighting, underlining, making notes, during writing and discussions etc....
- Give students opportunity to use vocabulary words.
- Understand multiple meaning for the words (synonyms).
- Include new word(s) into class discussions and activities.

Thank you,

2nd Grade Team!

Third Grade:

Third grade has just wrapped up the NWEA. We are so proud of all the effort and progress our students have made. As we begin the third card marking, third graders will continue with multiplication and division strategies. Geometry will be introduced. In Language Arts, students will explore realistic fiction text and poetry. Students will learn how to gather facts to support their opinions in writing. Living things is our next unit in Science. Our unit in Social Studies is the government of Michigan. Third grade is ready to learn great things this month!

4th Grade News

We have been very busy in fourth grade. We are half way through the school year. Students took their winter NWEA test. In Math, we will be starting Unit 5. Students will focus on double digit multiplication, and long division. In Science, we are starting our unit on Earth Science. Students will focus on earth's layer, erosion, weathering, and deposition. In Social Studies, we will be focusing on Federal Government. In writing, we will be focusing on Narrative pieces. Students will have to complete a story when given a beginning. Students are working on writing 5 paragraphs using the narrative hamburger. Please make sure your child is reading every night for at least 30 minutes. Also, some websites that they can work on at home are: www.khanacademy.com, www.mobymax.com, www.myon.com. Additionally, please make sure your child comes to school with a coat daily.

Fifth Grade:

Fifth grade completed NWEA testing for the winter and they did great! In order to keep their scores up, they need to be performing at their very best! Report cards will be sent home in the beginning of the month so keep an eye out for them! Before you know it, we will be testing for M-Step. April is just around the corner! Please be sure that you are reading and practicing math facts with your child daily. There are websites they can go on to practice for the test such as the sites on the Dearborn Schools websites. During our Mid-Winter break, practice sheets will be sent home

with students to exercise their minds, please make sure these are returned once the break is over. We hope everyone enjoys their break!



Elementary Physical Education



Lowrey Elementary's 2nd annual Jump Rope for Heart event will be held on Friday, February 17th!! This is a great cause to help others that have medical issues with their heart. All donations go to the American Heart Association and will help with new research and medicine.

Your child should receive a packet on Friday, February 10th, with all of the information and the envelope to collect the money in. Please feel free to contact me at murrayj1@dearbornschools.org with any questions or you can check out my blog, as well: <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/murrayj1/>

Thank you for your generosity,

Mrs. Murray



7th grade science just completed testing Science NWEA. Students have been learning to classify substances by their physical and chemical properties, and explain the relationship of elements to the periodic table. We will begin learning to identify examples of waves and explain how waves transfer energy when they interact with matter.



Students in **7th grade** Math have been very busy lately. We finished up NWEA testing and are continuing our unit on Proportional Relationships in tables, graphs and equations. The 7th grade advanced is working on Proportional Relationships as well as Graphing Linear Equations (slope). We will be introducing Multi-step equations as well as writing and graphing inequalities in the next few weeks. The students have been sent recommendations through Khan Academy that they should continue working on every

week until they are complete. These recommendations are based on every student's individual NWEA score. They are based on the areas that the student needs to focus more on. Please ensure that your child is spending time every week completing these recommendations. Students should spend an hour to an hour and a half every week on Khan Academy.



THE WORLD IS NOT A PLEASANT PLACE TO BE

by Nicky Giovanni

The world is not a pleasant place
to be without
someone to hold and be held by
a river would stop
its flow if only
a stream were there
to receive it
an ocean would never laugh
if clouds weren't there
to kiss her tears
the world is not
a pleasant place to be without
someone.

Can you tell we've been learning about figurative language? Mister Dobert's students, please ask him how you can earn extra credit from this poem.



7th grade Social Studies students are now making their way into the most fun part of ancient history. We have covered everything from the early humans to the four main empires of Mesopotamia. We are currently taking an in depth look at the system of laws provided to govern an entire region of people, Hammurabi's code of laws. The students are now completing projects of their own that take a look at these laws as well as adding a few of their own. We will soon begin to dive into ancient Egypt where more learning and hands on activities will begin, that is why this is the most fun part of 7th grade social studies. We will also talk about Economics as a sub unit and how the true beginnings of human economics began in these ancient tribes and civilizations.

Eighth Grade:

Eighth grade Language Arts students have completed reading and testing on the short story "Flowers for Algernon" written in the form of a journal by Charlie Gordon, a mentally challenged man of thirty-seven, who undergoes brain surgery to become a genius only to quickly decline in his mental abilities to eventually die. Algernon in the title refers to the mouse used to determine Charlie's base-line intelligence and to whom Charlie develops a close relationship as Algernon has undergone the same type of surgery and suffers the same fate as Charlie. The story is challenging to read because the language in the journal entries reflect the stages of Charlie's mental development and decline. However, the story is very rewarding because of Charlie's candor and love and caring for others.

Besides submitting weekly reading logs, students have drafted and revised a number of times an argumentative essay on the topic of characters being more interesting in two short stories they have read. The revising of essays is an effective way of helping students improve their writing skills. The first draft usually indicates what the student knows about writing; the revisions usually show what the student needs to know to improve.



Middle School Trivia Nights are coming soon!! Student Council will have a Trivia Night for each grade level in the Little Theater.



Middle School Valentine's Day Candy Grams Sale Begins Wednesday Feb 1st, 2017.

PTA: Valentine's Day store opened from the 10th – 14th from 9:00am-1:00pm. The PTA will be opened every Friday and we welcome parents who would like to volunteer.



JANUARY 2017
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kindergarten: Ali Obeid, Hassan Mallah, Rana Alward, Ibrahim Gobah, Hala Almasri, Moussa Douhani, Rawan Alnedami, Hadi Basma, Younes Hussain, Robaa Abdullah

1st Grade: Gamal Alsameai, Liliana Saad, Abraham Ajrouche, Adnan Abdulkarim, Leanne Ajami, Jawad Awada,.

2nd Grade: Haya Bakarli, Ahmed Alwaseem, Hassan Charaf, Duaa Yehya, Nour Nadi, Asseel Abdulla, Rawan Alnamer, Abdullah Alnuaimi, Abedarhman Shwekat, Zahraa Hammoud

3rd Grade: Alhussein Gahlib, Zeinb Mufadhal, Riyan Ahmed, Naif Alsoofi, Ayah Alaouie, Zeinab Bazzi, Yanal Alchick, Malak Hazime

4th Grade: Tasnem Omar, Ahmad Alzaghir, Sulaf Elhusseini, Younis Saeed, Salha Charaf, Jinan Shukr, Huda Yaseen, Leena Taha, Adel Bitar

5th Grade: Khadiga Nasser, Safa Alwakya, Ali Charaf, Mohamed Sbeity, Meriam Eljahmi, Malek Shohatra, Yousif Jadallah, Sundas Mohamed, Judy Baydoun, Wassif Nadi, Alaa Almraisi,



JANUARY 2017
Middle School Students of the Month

6th Grade

**Asma Almontaser
Tamar Alrobaie
Nour Chouaib
Lamees Saad
Khawla Saeed**

7th Grade

**Saja Aljanaby
Hamed Alomeiri
Noorhuda Alzoubi
Noor Berry
Adam Salameh**

8th Grade

**Noor Aoude
Zeinab Chami
Mohannad Jaber
Denya Kofaan
Reda Mazeh**



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 WIDA Testing Begins	7	8	9 4 th grade field trip Dearborn symphony orchestra 9-11 am.	10 PTA (Valentine's Day store) 9am-1pm	11
12	13 PTA (Valentine's Day store) 9am-1pm	14 PTA (Valentine's Day store) 9am-1pm Girls Volleyball Lowrey vs. Salina @Lowrey Swimming Lowrey Vs. Salina @Lowrey	<u>LATE START</u> K-8 TH	16 Staff Vs. Student's Basketball game @Lowrey	17 Jump Rope for Heart Assembly (Little Theater) All Elementary Students	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25
26	27 SCHOOL REOPENS	28 Girl's Volleyball Lowrey Vs. Stout @Lowrey				