

Third Grade Families,

Newport News Public Schools administers screening and diagnostic assessments to determine support needs and monitor student growth throughout the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the screening and diagnostic assessments administered to third graders throughout the year in accordance with [Virginia Code § 22.1-215.2](#). You will receive your child's scores and any needed intervention service information at the end of each assessment.

There is no preparation needed for any assessment listed below. Most tasks on the assessments are administered one-on-one or in a small group setting and are spread across the testing window to allow instruction to continue. Data collected will be used as a baseline of your child's literacy and math needs and teachers will use it to inform instruction.

### **Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)**

PALS is an assessment tool administered to select students in the fall to measure literacy development. PALS has two purposes: 1) a screening tool to identify students at risk of reading difficulties, and 2) to inform teachers' instruction through student data.

***Fall PALS testing window: September 19 - September 30, 2022***

***Mid-Year PALS testing window: January 9 - January 23, 2023***

***Spring PALS testing window: May 8 - May 19, 2023***

### **Reading Inventory (RI)**

The Reading Inventory is a computer-adaptive reading comprehension assessment that provides information on a student's reading level and growth over time using Lexile measurements. A Lexile score combines the level of text complexity with the student's comprehension level. Reading Inventory is given two times per year. Teachers use the Lexile score to guide instruction and help students select appropriate texts for independent reading. A student who scores in the Proficient level by the end of the school year is considered to be performing on grade level, and is on track to meet the demands of college and career by the end of high school.

***Testing Window: October 24 - October 28, 2022***

***Testing Window: February 27 - March 3, 2023***

### **Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Reading and Math Student Growth Assessments**

The VDOE Student Growth Assessment determines where students are performing on grade level standards of learning at multiple points during the school year. Teachers utilize data from the student growth assessment throughout the year to support instruction. Families will be notified following each of these state assessments with information about how to access score reports.

***Testing Window: September 12 - September 16, 2022***

***Testing Window: January 2 - January 13, 2023***

Thank you for your support,  
The NNPS Curriculum and Development Department