



Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, the NCDSB has implemented a number of new literacy programs that support evidence-based teaching practices related to the Science of Reading. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 classrooms are being taught using a phonics-based approach that will support improvements in both reading and writing achievement.

The programs we have selected to support this work require teachers to teach large group lessons every day in phonemic awareness and phonics. We also have a morning routine that is done in classrooms to reinforce a variety of reading, writing and oral language skills through building factual knowledge about all sorts of curriculum areas.

Given the systematic instruction that is happening in all grades each day, attendance at school has become a critical part of student success. We can clearly see the impact of these programs on the kids who are at school everyday, while those with less regular attendance are finding it very hard to keep up. Furthermore, our ability to catch kids up who are missing school is limited due to the nature of the programs. They are fast-paced and cover a lot of ground in each lesson.

We are confident that if you can get your child to school each and every day, we will teach them to read and write with proficiency. If we are not successful in doing so with a child who has regular attendance, we will work with you to figure out why they are struggling and support them with other strategies and programs. Daily attendance is important in every grade, but seems to be critical in the early years, including Kindergarten. Every day missed is a day of learning that will be lost. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school regularly, please reach out to your school principal for assistance. We will help you any way we can.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne Brumwell".

Daphne Brumwell
Superintendent of Education