

Dear Families,

Hello, from Liesl! Over the summer we have been looking deeply into the research that has been compiled and analyzed regarding what can be expected in terms of academic 'slide' or losses since the spring, due to Covid.

To allow us to most effectively and most immediately address the need, we will increase both the amount and type of assessments, still keeping in mind a child-friendly and developmentally appropriate approach.

Megan Riemer, our Literacy Specialist, will assess all children K-6th in reading skills.

Amber Osterkamp, our Math Specialist, will assess all children 2nd-6th in math skills.

All children 2nd-6th will be assessed with the FastBridge assessments called SAEBRS (completed by an adult) and mySAEBRS (completed by the children). SAEBRS stands for Social, Academic, Emotional Behavior Risk Screener. I will support these assessments.

Megan and Amber have included more information about the upcoming math and reading assessments here. SAEBRS assessments will begin in one month, when we have been together for enough time to support accurate responses on the SAEBRS checklists. I will send you a letter with more details at that time.

Thank you! We are really looking forward to working with your children, and with you!

Respectfully,

Liesl Taylor

(she/her)

Director of Elementary Pedagogy

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Dear Cornerstone Family,

Greetings from your Cornerstone Elementary Reading Specialist, Megan! Soon, your child will complete a reading assessment called DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). The guides and specialists will use this assessment as one of the tools that help us get to know each child as a reader. The purpose of this assessment is to monitor your child's development in reading, to identify children needing additional help, and to support the guides' work with the children.

DIBELS assesses four skills that are necessary for learning to read. The skills are:

- Phonemic Awareness: Hearing and using sounds in spoken words
- Phonics: Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words
- Accurate and Fluent Reading: Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes
- Reading Comprehension: Understanding what is read

DIBELS is made up of six short individual assessments. Because each test focuses on a different reading skill, your child may be given two to four DIBELS assessments depending on their grade level. The assessment should take approximately 5-10 minutes.

This year, we will complete the assessments online over Zoom. If your child is on-site, I will be working with support staff to find a time during their day to complete the DIBELS. If your child is off-site, I will be joining classrooms and seeing your children for assessments in zoom breakout rooms at times when they are already scheduled to be on-line.

Thank you for your support at home. If you have any questions concerning your child's DIBELS assessments or about their reading instruction, please contact me.

Warmly,

Megan Riemer

she/her

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Dear Families of Elementary Students,

My name is Amber Osterkamp and I am really excited to be back at Cornerstone and working with you all in my new role as the math specialist! Throughout this year, I will be working closely with the elementary lead guides doing the assessments and progress monitoring, making plans and providing additional instruction for children who need extra support, and being available for children who need help with their math follow on work.

Screening assessments will begin the first week of school for children in 2nd-6th grade. These assessments are used to give us insight about what your child knows and how we can best plan instruction for them.

We are using the same computerized assessment as last year, the aMath assessment from Fastbridge. These assessments are completed online with an internet-connected computer or tablet. I will be walking small groups of children through the directions during their regularly scheduled zoom meeting times.

Because these assessments give us helpful information for planning instruction, it is important that they be completed by your child without a calculator or any assistance from you.

Though we welcome your assistance in supporting a good space for your child to concentrate, I will be walking children through everything over zoom and we will keep the zoom meeting going through the entire testing period.

On the following page, you will find the specific time for your child's assessment and their login information.

Best Wishes,

Amber Osterkamp (She/her/hers)

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