

November, 2015

Dear Parents,

You are well aware that reading is important to your child. A child who can read well is more likely to do well on standardized tests and succeed in school. Below are some reading skills that can help your child be successful, along with ways you can help your child build them.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is more important than just being able to recognize and pronounce words---it's about making sense of what the words say. Often your child is required to find the main idea of reading passages. To help your child find the main idea:

- **Use the newspaper.** Cut out a short article. Then cut off the short title. Ask your child to read the article and then write a headline that would summarize the main idea. Then have your child to compare his /her main idea to the actual headline from the paper.
- **Use nonfiction.** Nonfiction writing is about real people, places, and things. Many of the standardized tests use nonfiction text for reading comprehension. Have your child read a chapter in a nonfiction book or an article from the newspaper. Then have a discussion with your child as to what the main idea is.

VOCABULARY

The more words your child knows, the more likely your child will experience success.

- Learn a new word every day. At the end of the week, review all the words.
- Look through the newspaper. Have your child underline new words in an article. Then look them up together. You may be surprised at the increase in your child's vocabulary.

Sincerely,
Donna Johnson