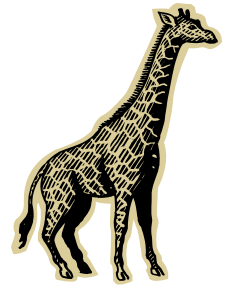


THE GIRAFFE JOURNAL



March 4, 2019
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Dear Meridian Parents and Guardians,

It's March and we are just three weeks away from spring break! Our spring break is March 25th— 29th.

We have many students coming in tardy to the point that they are missing a chunk of their instruction. Learning is a continuous process and if your child has broken absences or tardiness they are missing out on their education. Your child may make-up the work missed, but they cannot make-up the group discussion and group work with the teacher. The group discussion and group work is very important for your child to develop and master the skill being taught. As stated, in the Clay Community Schools' Parent-Student Handbook on page 8, after any absence, the **parent is required to send a brief note or phone the school** stating the reason for the absence. If a student's absence will exceed two days, the parent should contact the school office and request assignments. If a student's absence exceeds two days then a doctor's note is required. Thank you for helping us educate your child.

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are preparing for the new **ILEARN** assessment that will take the place of ISTEP+. **ILEARN** is Indiana's new online computer-adaptive assessment designed to measure your child's proficiency of the **Indiana Academic Standards** in Grades 3-5. **ILEARN** fulfills both state and federal legislative requirements as the accountability assessment for Indiana students. We believe that every student can achieve success and show growth on the test. **Meridian has received the letter grade of an "A" for the last 7 years on the ISTEP accountability assessment. With the new ILEARN, an attendance component will also be a part of our accountability, in addition to, student performance, student growth and participation. Let's keep this "A" going! An ILEARN assessment information for parents is attached to this newsletter. The newsletter provides resources to help prepare your child for ILEARN.**

In addition to **ILEARN**, students in grade 3 will be taking the **IREAD 3** assessment the week of **March 18th**. This test will determine whether your child is promoted to 4th grade. If your child does not pass the **IREAD 3** they will be required to attend summer school and retake the assessment. If your child does not pass the assessment during summer school, then your child will be retained in third grade.

I would like to give a **BIG shout out to our parents and students** for getting their child/children to school on time and attending every day. Our current rate of attendance for February is as follows:

Kindergarten	91.10%	Third Grade	94.74%
First Grade	96.43%	Fourth Grade	94.42%
Second Grade	93.15%	Fifth Grade	96.03%

Overall School Rate of Attendance for February 95.27%

A **BIG Congratulations** to our students who participated in the **Clay Community Schools Science Fair!** Great job, students!

Last Name	First Name	Grade	School	Project Type	Medal
Hayes	Ryleigh	5	ME	Chemistry	Red
Brewer	Landon	K	ME	Physical Science	Blue
Brewer	Kailer	K	ME	Physical Science	Red
Stephens-Savant	Wyatt	1	ME	Physical Science	Blue Gold/ Blue
Hutcheson	Anna	2	ME	Chemistry	Blue
Stephens-Savant	Charlee	3	ME	Physical Science	Blue
Wood	Tenley	5	ME	Chemistry	Blue
Scott	Ella	5	ME	Behavioral Science	Blue Gold/ Blue
Hutcheson	Jacob	5	ME	Behavioral Science	Silver/ Blue
Boller	Bryce	5	ME	Earth Science	Blue

Your participation and positive feedback is so appreciated! Please feel free to contact me either by phone **448-8560, Ext. 2601** or email **phillipk@clay.k12.in.us** if you ever have any concerns or if I can be of any service to you, your child or the school community.

Educationally yours,

Karen S. Phillips



January Perfect Attendance



Heart Featured Reachers



February Perfect Attendance



Respect Featured Reachers