

September 2019

Dear MMSD Families,

During the months of September, October and November, MMSD 4K through 2nd grade students will be taking an assessment called the Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS). The PALS assessment is a screener that measures your child's early literacy skills and vocabulary awareness. Results are used to aid teachers in developing individualized reading lesson plans for the students in their classroom.

One of the most effective strategies for preventing reading difficulties in early childhood and literacy development is accurate, early identification. PALS is a proactive and preventive screening measure that assists teachers in providing differentiated, targeted instruction to meet your child's needs. PALS provides teachers with valuable information that they use to plan appropriate instruction for each reader, whether they are at grade-level, advanced, or not yet proficient.

The PALS also provides important information to school administrators and to you, the parent or guardian. It is important for each child to receive support in literacy education, both in the classroom and at home. Therefore, the MMSD staff recommends that you speak with your child's teacher about his/her PALS scores during your parent/teacher conference. Your child's teacher is with your child during this assessment and throughout the school day He or she is the most knowledgeable person regarding each child's individual PALS scores. Results will be shared with you at conferences, and you may request the report be mailed to you.

For more information on assessment resources for parents and guardians, including links to the PALS website, please visit the MMSD Assessment web site at:
mmsd.org/assessment.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,



Tim Peterson
Director of Assessment