

Hello SBS Families,

I pray that all is well for you and your family. I am happy to have our students back on campus. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. As we begin a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to give you some updates on our academic programs. Although this year we have a new challenge in our midst, academics is still one of our top priorities.

Our new reading curriculum for kindergarten through third grade is *MyView*. The transition should be seamless for our students because it is the current edition to our former curriculum, *Reading Street*. Fourth and fifth grades adopted *Wit and Wisdom*. Grades six, seven, and eight are in the second year of implementation of the *Wit and Wisdom* curriculum.

SBS has made some changes to our *Accelerated Reader* program. We introduced the changes during our summer reading requirements. We have begun taking our *STAR* tests which will be used to set goals for the nine weeks. Information will be sent home each nine weeks with your child's current progress. Students will have the opportunity to read independently at least fifteen to twenty minutes during the school day. They are encouraged to read during transitional times as well. Please encourage your child to read at least fifteen minutes each evening. *STAR* data will be used as a baseline for selecting students requiring intervention services.

Kindergarten through second grade students will be participating in a reading program called *iRead*. We have recognized a great need to increase our phonics program in these grades knowing it's of paramount importance to reading comprehension as the students get older. *iRead* is designed to specifically target phonemic awareness and is designed to fit every student's level and pace of learning. Data from *iRead* will be used for recommendations to our intervention program as well.

We will use *ESGI* in grades Pre-Kindergarten through second grade to identify and address our math deficits. For students in grades third through eighth grade, we will use *ACT Aspire* data. Students will be assessed three times a year to determine growth and weaknesses.

We are making some changes to our intervention program this year. Interventionists will be working in the classroom with students rather than a pullout program. This inclusion model was planned to be implemented this school year since COVID-19's current phase does not allow for a pullout program. Intervention will begin after Labor Day and parents will be notified if their child has been accepted via email. Students can enter and exit throughout the school year depending on their academic progress.

Students who have an *Academic Support Plan* on file will be reevaluated in the next two weeks. Parents will be notified if a meeting is necessary. Teachers have received student plans.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about any of our academic programs. Again, thank you for entrusting your child to us.

Joyfully in Christ,
Rachael A. Tolliver
Assistant Principal

Sincerely