



DURAND-ARKANSAW SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Families,

Welcoming in a New Year, while saying farewell to the past, lends itself to times of reflection and thoughts about how we may go about the next 365 days. Student learning is a lot like the process of setting a series of attainable goals or New Year resolutions that eventually leads to higher achievement. All of our students are in the winter time frame of assessments for STAR Early Literacy/STAR Reading, and STAR Math. We will examine the data we have in our grade level Professional Learning Communities to ensure that students are receiving the correct Intervention or Enrichment that will support their full academic learning potential. There are many quality conversations happening about how we are moving kids and how our new reading program and more time for Math is an added benefit to our day. This data will also be used as part of a mid-year review for our staff and the goals they set for their student learning outcomes.

Each of our students has different interests and experiences that they bring to the table. Does your child want to learn all their math facts, read a chapter book, write several pages for their next story, and so forth? When students experience success in reaching a lofty, yet short-term goal, they begin to believe in their ability to learn and grow and that in turn leads to even more accomplishments. As teachers and parents, we play an important role in this process. We can help a child see how far they have come, and then in that process of feeling success about their achievement, encourage them to work hard, and reach their next goal. We can model and discuss the work ethic and perseverance that is so essential to attaining our hopes and dreams by sharing stories about reaching our own goals and achievements. In the end, all of these small steps add up, and by year's end, your child is meeting or exceeding their grade level learning targets. Together, let's continue to set goals our children can reach and lend them a hand by supporting and cheering them on. Don't forget to celebrate each accomplishment, no matter how small, before moving on to the next goal.

Cheers to the start of a fantastic 2018, it is already looking to be an outstanding year.

Your partner in Education,

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