



Baldwyn Public Schools
"Home of the Bearcats"

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PRESS RELEASE

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BALDWIN STUDENTS RANKED 1st IN STATE MKAS 3rd GRADE TEST

May 16, 2016 (BALDWIN, MS) Baldwin Elementary School's third grade students are elated and continue to celebrate their recent success on the 2016 Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System's reading summative results.

Last week BES third grade teachers and students were notified of being ranked first in the state for their 98.5 percent success passing rate of the reading assessment.

"We are so excited for our kids. We have had constant monitoring all year of all our BES students and their reading progress at home and at school," BES Principal Rickey Weaver said. "Reading is the norm at our school. We have goals, high expectations, rewards, and more in place to help motivate our students to read and advance their reading skills," Assistant Principal Tracie Weatherbee added.

Last year's 2015 MKAS results ranked BES in the top 10 percent. Principal Weaver noted that last year's third grade scores helped to motivate this year's third grade class. "They wanted to do even better than last year's class and wanted to beat their overall percentage of success."

BES's reading curriculum starts in Kindergarten with students learning to read and establishing Accelerated Reader goals. The AR goals continue through each grade, and students are expected to meet growth over the course of each nine weeks academic period. Every student's reading progress is charted by BES administration. "We want to make sure that every student has the opportunity to do their best and succeed," Principal Weaver added.

The administration also takes note of reading deficits no matter what grade and attacks the problem areas during each nine weeks academic period. The progress monitoring is a joint effort among administration, teachers, assistants, and parents. Teachers begin the focus on literacy in kindergarten, and all teachers build their tests around required readings. Every teacher and student is thus held accountable for reading. Remedial teachers, universal screeners, and PLCs are also used to help monitor student progress. "We want to thank our teachers, assistants,

parents, and PTO for their support of making our school a reading school. A special thanks to those parents and the PTO for helping provide incentives to reward our students' reading success," Principal Weaver said. "This is also the first year that we have had several full classrooms meet their AR goals at 100 percent. It has truly been a great year to watch our students' learning grow through their reading abilities."

Baldwyn Schools plans to continue with their reading success by continuing to monitor all student's progress as well as finding ways to close the gap and achieve a 100 percent reading success rate. "We don't want to become stagnant. We want to do all we can to help every student achieve reading goals set by the nation, state, and locally. We will continue to look for incentives to motivate students and aggressively attack any deficit we find," Principal Weaver expressed.

"I think this success for our schools has been a collective effort for teachers, parents, administration, and our students. We want to have a systematic plan in place for every student to have the opportunity to be successful in reading, school, and life," Superintendent Jason McKay said.