



Clayton County Public Schools

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Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with specific ways that you can partner with our school district to increase our students' **literacy levels**. The Georgia Standards of Excellence and the Georgia Milestones Assessments bring higher expectations for how students are required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the classroom and on assessments. Students must be able to skillfully (willfully) read a variety of texts, write for multiple audiences and purposes, and think critically using their knowledge and skills. Parents, we have provided you with a list of practices that you can use at home to support our effort in producing learners who can communicate clearly and coherently both orally and in writing.

- Ensure your child is **reading** every day. (If they are infants or toddlers, read to them every day.) They should be exposed to fiction and nonfiction texts (e.g. **current event articles**, science, history, etc.). The local library and the school library will be able to appropriately match your child's reading level to a variety of books. Reading will build your child's vocabulary, background knowledge, and provide a strong foundation for learning.
- Engage your child in **meaningful discussions** about what they are reading. They should be able to address the following questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.
- Have your child maintain a **vocabulary notebook**, where they can record newly learned words from their school work, from readings, and from conversations. Ensure handwriting paper and writing tools are available.
- Require your child to **write** about what they are reading or give them topics on which they can write. A journal is a great place for students to write their thoughts and witness their growth in writing skills.
- Emphasize that your child uses **correct grammar**, correct punctuation, and correct spelling. People tend to write the way they speak. Also, please do not allow them to use "texting" in their formal writing. Example: LOL! BTW, TTYL, etc.
- When your child is writing, he/she should **write a combination** of stories, informational pieces, and opinion pieces. They should **use evidence from their readings** as supporting details in their paragraphs or essays.
- **Attributes of a great piece of writing include:**
 - Writing on topic for the appropriate audience
 - Using clear topic sentences
 - Including a variety of relevant, supporting details; includes textual evidence
 - Organizing ideas using transitional elements (e.g. first, additionally, however, consequently, etc.)
 - Using precise word choice and interesting descriptions
 - Adhering to correct C.U.P.S. (capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling)

Valuing your partnership,

Dr. Ebony T. Lee

Ebony T. Lee, Ph.D.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Topic	Explanation or Resource
<p>1. Released GMAS items and writing samples (for ELA and mathematics), along with the scoring criteria (rubric) for proficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These resources allow you to see and discuss the differences between a non-proficient and proficiently constructed written response using explanations of the rubric. • Grades 3-8 Released Writing: http://tinyurl.com/j3g2355 Grades 3-8 Guides: http://tinyurl.com/k456ktz • Grades 9 and 11 Released Writing: http://tinyurl.com/y7m3khuc Grades 9 and 11 Guides: http://tinyurl.com/m6dgs32 • GMAS Parent Resources (English and translated) located at this link: https://tinyurl.com/pe7yep4
<p>2. More Information about Lexile levels</p>	<p>Obtain information about Lexiles at the following GADOE link: http://tinyurl.com/UnderstandingLexiles</p>
<p>3. Helpful Websites</p>	<p>Explore other helpful websites that can be used at home or at the local library to help develop our students' knowledge and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.studiesweekly.com (social studies) • http://www.discoveryeducation.com/ (all subjects) • www.readwritethink.org (all subjects) • www.studentnewsdaily.org (reading comprehension and writing) • www.readworks.org (reading) • www.newsela.com (reading comprehension and writing) • www.khanacademy.org/ (various subjects and test prep)
<p>4. The 5 Ps of Successfully Supporting Learning:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ P – Purpose: Emphasize frequently to your child why he/she is in school and what learning means for his/her future. ✓ P – Present: Ensure your child is present every day and has the necessary supplies. ✓ P – Place: Secure a place at home that is conducive to reading, studying, and completing homework assignments. ✓ P – Partnership: Establish a strong partnership with the school to support positive outcomes for your child. Stay informed! ✓ P – Plan: Have a plan for success! Encourage your child to set personal and academic goals and regularly revisit these goals to ensure he/she is on track for success.