



Western Wayne School District
EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—January 2026



Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Happy New Year!

It's no surprise that Reading is the first of the three R's...

Reading is the foundation for success in school – and in life. The ability to read and write is necessary to master every subject and to communicate what is learned. Even more importantly, children who enjoy reading will continue to learn throughout their lives. Reading is one of the most inexpensive and readily available forms of education and entertainment.

You have an important role to play in helping your child become a better reader. You know your child better than anyone else does, so you can help he/she choose books that meet their own special interests. You also want your child to succeed, so offer encouragement and support as you build their love of reading.

Here are a few parent-tested ideas you may want to use to reinforce your child's reading skills at home:

1. **Encourage your child to spend time reading every day.**

Reading is a skill and it gets better with practice.

2. **Use tried-and-true teacher tips:**

Stop before the end of the story. Ask you child to predict what she thinks may happen next.

Ask your child how she might have changed the story.

3. **Invite a "guest reader" to read to your child.**

You don't have to be the only one to read to and with your child.

Encourage siblings to read to each other.

Older kids will love showing off their reading skills to a younger child.

4. **Make sure a book is on your child's reading level.**

Some educators suggest using the following "rule of thumb":

Have your child read a page of the book aloud. Have her hold up one finger for each word she does not know. If she holds up four fingers and a thumb before the end of the page, the book is probably too hard for her to read alone.

But it might be a great book to read aloud.

Mr. Pidgeon

References: *The Parent Institute*

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EverGreen Spotlight



Teach Kindness

EverGreen Elementary 5th grade Student Definition of Kindness:

“Kindness is helping, respecting, and comforting others, with our words or actions, from the kindness of your heart, without expecting something in return”



EverGreen Spotlight



ES

The end of the second quarter is quickly approaching. We hope your children are well rested from their break. We will be getting right back into the academic groove! We cannot wait to see their progress moving forward. Please remember to send in warm coats, hats, gloves and boots for your children because they will be going outside for wellness as much as possible.



Pre-Kindergarten

The Pre-Kindergarten students are continuing to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sound each letter makes. They are using a variety of independent learning activities at the literacy center to reinforce what they are learning during whole group lessons. The students are also strengthening their phonemic awareness skills. They are rhyming, isolating the first and last sounds in words, blending, segmenting, and adding and deleting beginning sounds.

In math, the students are exploring the numbers nine, ten, and zero. They are arranging and counting objects in a variety of configurations. They are also learning to identify the numerals and are making groups of objects to match each one.



This month the students will use the handwriting strokes they have learned to begin printing their first names, remembering to use an uppercase letter for the first letter only, and lowercase letters for the rest. They are learning to hold their pencils using the correct grip.

Kindergarten

As we welcome the new year, the kindergarteners are busier than ever! Stories about penguins, snowmen, mittens, and snowy weather are being enjoyed this month.

Our students are also reading stories while focusing on fluency. Ask your child to read to you using expression. The more they read the easier it will get.

The children are now developing their listening skills by identifying the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. This listening skill helps them to find the correct letters when they are making new words and word families.

In math, we are continuing to work on counting and printing numbers. Students have been working hard on adding sums to five. The children are exploring subtraction. We are also using patterns to develop fluency in subtraction.

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, we will listen to his story and learn about his life and his dream for a peaceful world.

We would like to remind everyone to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather.



1st Grade

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday! We are continuing to see great progress in reading and writing. We are expanding our vocabulary and comprehension skills. Students will start to learn long vowel patterns with words and will continue to build on these skills for the rest of the year. Please continue to practice the sight words that are sent home nightly in their Homework Folder. Each quarter the list of words required will increase and we want students to have a strong foundation of these words.

The students are continuing to practice telling time to the hour. They are also working on place value, addition and subtraction facts, and counting mixed coins. We also will be working on adding three numbers and adding two-digit numbers without regrouping. Please continue working on addition facts nightly with your child.

2nd Grade

Second graders have been enjoying stories from their reading books. The students are focusing on realistic fiction, non-fiction, and fantasy stories. Students are learning about the central idea of stories. The students work on figuring out what the stories are about and what the author is trying to have them focus on throughout the story.

In Math, second grade students are working through different modules and are currently working in Module 4, which is teaching them how to add two- and three-digit numbers. Students are working very hard on this and if you can practice this at home that would be great.

Handwriting is a skill used every day, by every student, in every subject. The goal is for every child to write fluently in a legible manner. Second graders have been learning to use proper strokes, such as, left to right, top to bottom, backward circle, forward circle, slant right, and slant left.

In Science, we are finishing up our Properties of Matter unit where students learn about conductors, insulators, and inventors. Students made a model using the information from the unit to keep an ice pop from melting! They had such fun applying what they learned in this unit.



3rd Grade

Happy New Year! We are excited to continue our learning journey as we begin 2026!

As we transition back into our school routine, students will be concluding our fifth module of our new Into Reading, Reading Series on Teamwork. Next, we will set our sights on Module 6, entitled, Animal Behaviors. In this module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about animal survival. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn more about the way animals utilize behaviors and characteristics, or traits, to promote survival. A genre focus on nonfiction provides students with opportunities to continue to identify author's purpose, identify the central idea, and text structure to better understand the topic.

In math, we will become heavily focused on fractions. Students will begin by developing their understanding of what a fraction is, equal parts of a whole. Next, they will build upon that foundation by identifying unit fractions, fractions less than 1 whole on a number line, fractions as whole numbers, and they will interpret / create line plots with fractions. Please support your child by offering real-life opportunities to see fractions in action; in the kitchen, in the garage, the possibilities are endless!

A continued priority for our third graders is to become fluent with their multiplication and division facts. It is especially important to provide reinforcement at home. Make it fun with games or flash card races. Lastly, we ask that you check that your child neatly completes his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes nightly



4th Grade

January is a flurry of activity! With the new year upon us, let us all make a resolution to work harder than ever and strive to do our personal best in 2026!!

4th graders are hard at work learning new math concepts. We have become fabulous at long division and are on our way to being excellent at fractions. Please keep practicing your multiplication and division facts at home.

Our latest reading theme focuses on “Heroic Feats”. We read about all kinds of heroes, in fairy tales, non-fiction, and plays.

We love Science! So far we have learned so much about the earth, and how mountains and plains were formed millions of years ago. We read about erosion and weather, and how the earth will look different many years from now!



5th Grade

Happy New Year, families! January will be a month filled with learning, goal-setting, and new opportunities to shine in grade 5!

Reading: In Reading we will continue to explore Module 4. In this Module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about the people who lived in and people who moved to the West in the nineteenth century. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about the different groups’ varied experiences.

Math: We will continue to explore the four operations of fractions. Students are encouraged to practice math facts nightly.

Science: We will begin our next PLTW module- Infection Detection. Students will explore how germs are transmitted, precautions to avoid and/or fight off infections, and the different types of germs.

Social Studies: We will begin to study the Progressive Era; a time when Americans worked together to make life fairer, safer, and more equal for everyone.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2026!



Title 1

The Common Core State Standards are the national standards that tell teachers what students are expected to learn in math and language arts. These standards outline expectations that are far different from the expectations of school years ago. Below is a general explanation of the big ideas in the English language arts standards and what parents can do to support these standards at home.

Key Ideas and Details: This big idea wants your child to read many different kinds of stories carefully. While reading, your child will be working on understanding what is happening in the story, retelling key or important events or things and determining what details are important to the story.

To help with this standard at home, be sure to talk about important parts of the story after reading. For example, what happened in the beginning, middle, and end? Also, after reading encourage your child to summarize or retell the story in his/her own words. If you are reading an informational story, ask questions about the information given.

Craft and Structure: The standards under this big idea focuses on the author’s word choices and why the author chose to use those specific words. These standards also look at how the set-up of varying types of stories like storybooks, poems, plays, and informational stories differ.

To help with this standard at home call attention to the interesting words and phrases the author uses for emphasis. For example, using the word “enormous” instead of “big.” Also point out the phrases the author uses such as “sick as a dog” or “as fast as the wind.” This is also a great time to talk about vocabulary and interesting words. Be sure to point out different features like headings and real photographs in informational stories.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: These standards focus on the students’ ability to compare and contrast detail from stories. In informational texts, students will need to describe important or key ideas using details from the text and tell how two texts on the same topic differ.

At home, talk about how the story illustrations or pictures help the reader better understand the story. Also, try to read different books on the same topic and talk about how the books were alike and different.

Range or Reading and Level of Text Complexity: To meet these standards teachers will introduce a variety of different books to the children such as poetry, fiction, informational and more. These books will stretch across varying degrees of difficulty to support and extend the students’ reading abilities. The ultimate goal is the students’ understanding of all these different texts.

The best way to help with this is to develop your child’s reading stamina. That means being able to read for longer and longer periods of time. This will also teach your child to persevere or “stick with it.”

Remember if you have any questions regarding these standards please feel free to contact your child’s Title I teacher. Happy reading!!

(The above information was adapted from Growing Readers by ReadingRockets.org)



ENROLLMENT	
Early Intervention	12
Pre-Kindergarten	49
Kindergarten	65
First Grade	87
Second Grade	69
Third Grade	81
Fourth Grade	76
Fifth Grade	<u>67</u>
	506
Outside Placement	<u>+ 2</u>
Total	508