

September 13th, 2021

Dear Parents,

Three times a year Amsterdam School collects valuable academic data on each student. With the data, which is highly focused on math & reading, the staff is able to provide valuable leveled instruction in each classroom and in each subject area of instruction. The assessments (benchmarks) are conducted in September, January, & May of each school year. Once the data collection is completed, teachers and teams will analyze the results to provide the greatest instructional programming at each grade level for each student.

The Amsterdam Title 1 team, along with paraprofessional assistance, completes most of the benchmark testing process. The Title 1 team provides programs and services to enrich learning at school with customized instruction and curricula that assists students to 1) meet grade-level academic standards and 2) take an active, engaged interest in what they learn. The team has been very busy this month completing the Fall Benchmark, which includes: a variety of FastBridge reading and math assessments for all students at Amsterdam School. Star Reading & Math Assessments, Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessments (running records), Core Phonics Surveys & Phonological Awareness Screeners have been administered to some students as well. Once all assessments have been completed, referrals for individual student Title 1 support will begin from both the teaching staff and the parent's perspective. If you would like to discuss reading/math concerns, please reach out to the classroom teacher and/or fill out a Parent Referral form (found on the Amsterdam School's website under School Programs: Title 1) and turn it in to Chantel Doherty.

With that said, some parents may be receiving a call from our Title 1 team and /or seeing Title 1 referral paperwork coming home for 1) parental review, 2) for setting up Parent/Title 1 meetings, and 3) for parent signatures. Amsterdam Title 1 is a cooperative program between home and school that provides the greatest learning opportunities for students identified as falling below grade-level expectations in one or more areas. For instance, a student may qualify for reading assistance and not math assistance or vice versa. Please keep an eye out for Title 1 paperwork and return it to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. Title 1 instruction starts following receipt of teacher and/or parent referrals as well as individual Parent/Title 1 meetings where parents and teachers design individual plans for each Title 1 student.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Amsterdam Title 1 team - Mrs. Chantel Doherty or Mrs. Katherine Dawe at (406)282-7216 or stop by before or after school and we would be happy to visit with you about the Title 1 program. We are excited to start working with you and your child(ren) soon!

Sincerely,

Your Amsterdam Title 1 Team: Chantel Doherty, Katherine Dawe