



WEST LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Betty McElmon Elementary ♦ 20 Parker Road ♦ West Long Branch, NJ 07764
Phone: (732) 222-5900 ♦ Fax: (732) 483-0845

June 9, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The West Long Branch School District has been working diligently to improve the reading skills of our students. To accomplish this goal, our teachers have implemented guided reading structures into their teaching routine. Guided reading is an instructional approach in which teachers work with small groups of children that are at similar reading levels. The main goal of guided reading is to teach children how to use independent reading strategies for increased comprehension. As research indicates, a child's ability to read fluently with understanding is directly related to academic achievement.

To form guided reading groups, teachers periodically assess student reading levels using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. During a benchmark assessment, the teacher works with a child one-on-one to assess his/her oral fluency and reading comprehension level. Data from this assessment is used to form guided reading groups and provide books to students at their instructional level. This is one of several methods we use to gauge literacy achievement.

To access your child's F&P reading level, please login to the parent portal and follow the steps below:

- ❖ Go to <https://www.wlbschools.com/Domain/127>
- ❖ Under site links, select parent portal
- ❖ Enter your user name and password
- ❖ Under menu, select testing
- ❖ View F&P Fall score (most current date)

A Fountas & Pinnell reading level chart has been posted to the virtual backpack. It provides information on the range of reading levels that are expected at each grade. The independent reading level of your child is provided in the parent portal to help you select books and increase his/her reading time at home. Your child's independent level is one level below the instructional level.

If you would like to obtain books for your child to read, the website <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/> may be used as a resource to locate titles at your child's independent reading level. We would like to emphasize, that while you may want your child to read very complex texts, reading is best accomplished if it is at your child's independent reading level. This information is being provided to you in June because we believe it may help you in selecting books for summer reading.



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If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (732) 222-5900, Extension 1251. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

James J. Erhardt

James J. Erhardt
BME Principal