



Inspire Empower Succeed

Alaiedon Elementary School
1723 N. Okemos Road- Mason, Michigan 48854
(517) 676-6499 Fax (517) 676-0283

September 30, 2016

Fall Greetings Alaiedon Families,

This letter is being sent to you to communicate an important change in our building's practice of providing intervention and enrichment to all students. I thank you for taking the time to read this information, and ask for your support in our efforts to implement this best practice.

Providing all students with instruction that best fits their individual needs is a primary goal for all educators. Rigorous curriculum standards are set by the State of Michigan, and I applaud our teachers and support staff for their hard work, creativity and commitment in ensuring all students succeed in these standards.

Several families are familiar with Success Lab, our computer based reading/math support program initiated in the 2003-04 school year. Additionally, our reading teacher, Mrs. Royston, provided intense reading instruction to our most struggling students in the early grades. These fine programs helped support many struggling students, but many more students needed additional support for which the classroom teacher had limited time and resources to conduct. Our staff also recognized and were troubled that time to provide similar support to our advanced students was diminished as a result. How to offer all students what they need most weighs heavy on our minds.

This struggle is not unique to Alaiedon Elementary School. Last Spring our School Improvement Team researched best practices and contacted fellow districts to discover other ways to meet the needs of students on all levels of the learning spectrum. Following thoughtful discussion, we came to a decision to pause our Success Lab approach with a new format. In line with our district Strategic Plan, "we reviewed our resources to maximize high quality education," and have developed a program that will give *IDI* students time in an activity they need most to succeed.

Beginning in October, four days a week, Grades 1-5 have a thirty-minute block of time whereby students receive intervention or enrichment. Students will attend one of seven/eight activities in what they need most to grow as a learner. Several activities are interventions to promote reading and math achievement. Additional activities include enrichment in science, math, social studies, writing and reading. Students are assigned to these activities based upon their beginning of the school year math/reading assessments and screeners, MSTEP scores, and classroom assessments. Students receiving intervention will be closely monitored, and guided into other activities as they progress. This time of day is called W.I.N. (What I Need) Time.

Our Grade 1-5 teaching staff, reading teacher, academic support teacher, resource teacher, and MTSS Aides will instruct and support students in these activities. These fine people have spent September assessing and screening students in the areas of math and reading, researching interventions and

instructional activities, and collaborating with each other to best assign students to the activity they need. This team of people will reconvene every 7-10 weeks to adjust student assignments based upon their progress.

This endeavor is in some ways what we've been doing all along-providing differentiated instruction to the best of our ability, but is different in that we are allocating 7-8 personnel to a grade level at one time rather than leaving one classroom teacher to go it alone. We believe this restructuring of our resources will make a difference.

As we begin our implementation, there may be some glitches. We will work together to address them. We also are looking forward to celebrating the successes that result because of our good work. Our teaching staff and School Improvement Team will evaluate this structure throughout the school year, and your feedback will be a part of that evaluation. I ask that you take time to provide us your input as the year goes along, and to complete any surveys/questionnaires about W.I.N. Time that come your way.

In closing, I also request of you to help your children succeed academically. The time and attention you give to your children's school work, at-home work, and daily skill practice (reading and math) is essential. In today's ever changing world, all that a child must learn cannot be accomplished during a school day. We are partners in this endeavor, and look for us to tap you for help.

Our team of teachers and support staff completed plans for W.I.N. Time this past Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and we look forward to it beginning next week. Please begin talking with your children about their W.I.N. Time activity.

Don't hesitate to stop in my office or contact me with any questions.

Regards, 
Mrs. Lisa Francisco
Principal

W.I.N. Time Staff

- Your child's grade level teachers
- Mrs. Tammy Royston, Reading Teacher
- Mrs. Jen Muffett, Academic Support Teacher
- Mrs. Rebecca Murray, Resource Teacher
- Mrs. Marti Sumerix, MTSS Aide
- Mrs. Marilyn Kleibusch, MTSS Aide
- Mrs. Kassia Barney, MTSS Aide