



Monrovia Elementary Literacy Newsletter

K-3 | November 2020 |

Morris Mail Home Connection

Morris Message:

What an interesting first nine weeks! Even in the midst of challenges, student learning is happening! I want to thank you, parents, for your dedication to your child's education. You have gone above and beyond! We appreciate you!

Besides learning, we've been assessing student reading skills to inform our next instructional steps. Our district reading assessment is *mClass*. See the article on page two for details.

You will also find a [Home Highlights](#) section that will give you some fun reading strategies that you may do at home to keep the learning propelling forward!

Home Highlights

Captivate your child at home with some fun multi-sensory activities! Multi-sensory activities engage more than one sense at a time. There are many ways a parent can help a child by using some multi-sensory techniques.



Using sand or shaving cream allows students to use sight, touch, and sound to connect letters and their

sounds. Students start with a handful of sand on a cookie sheet or a dollop of shaving cream on a table. Then they spread out the sand or shaving cream and use their finger to write a letter or word in it. As they write, students say the sound each letter makes. They then blend those sounds together and read the whole word aloud.

Here is a [link](#) with more information about the benefits of multi-sensory techniques.



Did you know that when a child writes, the brain's phonological, orthographic, meaning, and context processors are ALL activated?! Learn more in the next Morris Mail Home Connection edition!



Noteworthy News!

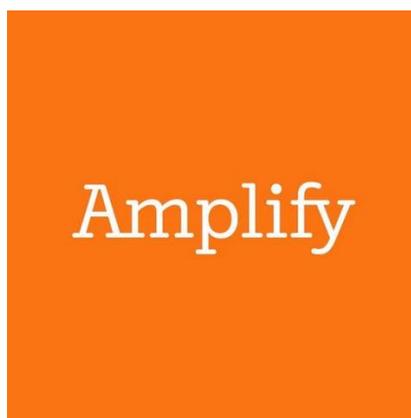
Formative assessments INFORM the teacher, student, and parent the next steps needed to achieve success.

For the past month and a half, teachers and staff have been busy administering Madison County's reading assessment, *mClass/DIBELS* for grades K-3. This assessment measures indicators of basic early literacy skills, such as letter naming, phonemic awareness phonics, and fluency.

Letter naming fluency is simply being able to identify the letters in the alphabet, in random order, quickly and correctly.

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear the sounds or parts in a word. A parent can practice this while driving! Say a word and have your child tell you the sounds in the word!

Phonics, on the other hand, is knowledge of the sound symbol correspondence and blending those sound representations to read words. The *mClass* assessment uses Nonsense Words to assess this skill.



mCLASS®

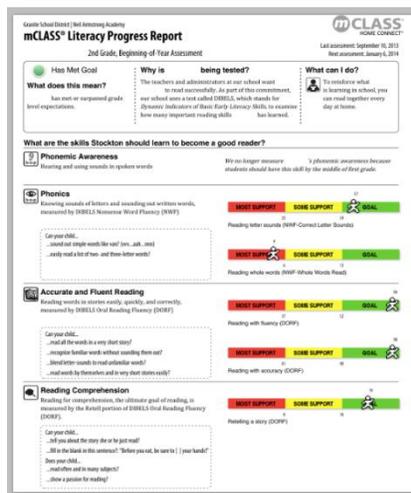


Photo credit: <https://schools.graniteschools.org/armstrong/2013/10/08/mclass-home-connect-letters/>

Finally, reading fluently is an important skill that is assessed. To read fluently means that your child can read at an appropriate rate, with prosody (expression), and, most importantly, with accuracy.

There are other skills such as vocabulary and comprehension that are also measured by *mClass*.

1st – 3rd grades should have received a Home Connect letter attached to the first nine week's report card. It will indicate grade level expectations for each measure and your child's performance on each.

Here is a quick [video](#) on understanding the parent reports. Here is a resource for [Home Connect Activities!](#)

Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Morris at crmorris@mcsc12.org or your child's teacher for more information.

The research of the past two decades demonstrates quite clearly that students who read orally with good expression are more likely to comprehend deeply when reading silently (Rasinski, Reutzel, Chard, & Linan-Thompson, 2011).

