



Christina Woodward Principal  
Chris Reitan, Superintendent  
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Dear PACE Families,

For the second half of September, PACE will be offering DIBELS assessments for interested students in grades K-3. DIBELS are short fluency measurements designed to help track early literacy and reading growth and progress over the course of a year. We do them three times a year: beginning, middle, and end, to see overall growth. It also helps us provide additional resources and supports for you to use at home.

They are quick and easy "tests" that include letter, sound, and word identification, and reading, depending on the grade level. There's no grade given and nothing to prepare for. Consider it a tool to gather information and monitor progress over the course of the year.

As you may know, PACE has been offering DIBELS testing for many years now. It is an excellent literacy screener to help gather information and inform parent-led decisions. Additionally, it fulfills the requirements of the recently passed *Alaska Reads Act*. Enacted in June of 2022, the *Alaska Reads Act's* goal is to ensure all Alaska students read at grade-level by the end of third grade. More information on the *Alaska Reads Act* can be found [here](#).

Even though literacy screening has been implemented state-wide, it remains the parent's choice. DIBELS are not mandatory. You are welcome to skip this first round and begin in the middle of the year, do all three, or not do any.

This fall, we continue to offer testing as we have in the past using paper-based material and the option to test in person (when possible) or via zoom. We are transitioning to a computer-based assessment later in the year (same exact test, the teacher simply records answers electronically). Those will continue to be in-person or via zoom.

Here is a link for more information and background on the [DIBELS assessment](#) tool if you are interested in learning more.

Your contact teacher will be following up with you to schedule DIBELS or confirm your decision to opt out.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

*Christina Woodward*  
Christina Woodward  
PACE Principal

#### CRAIG

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