Little Falls School No. 3

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September 10, 2025

Dear School No. 2 and No. 3 Families,

We would like to take a moment to share important information about New Jersey's Literacy Mandate and how it impacts lower elementary students. The state requires all schools to conduct universal screening in early literacy to ensure that every child is on track in developing the foundational skills necessary for reading success.

To meet this requirement, our district will be using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), 8th Edition. DIBELS is a research-based assessment tool designed to measure key skills that are critical for early literacy development. Students in grades K–4 will participate in brief, one-on-one assessments with their teacher. These assessments provide valuable information about each child's reading progress.

The DIBELS 8th Edition includes a variety of subtests depending on grade level, which may measure skills such as:

- **Letter Naming Fluency** – recognizing and naming letters quickly.
- **Phonemic Awareness** – identifying and manipulating sounds in spoken words.
- **Phonics/Decoding** – using letter-sound relationships to read words.
- **Word Reading Fluency** – reading grade-level words accurately and quickly.
- **Oral Reading Fluency** – reading connected text with accuracy, fluency, and expression.
- **Reading Comprehension** – understanding and making meaning from text.

These subtests help teachers identify areas of strength as well as areas where additional support may be needed. Our goal is to provide early intervention so that all students can develop into confident, successful readers. **The assessment will take place at the end of September with your child's homeroom teacher.**

As part of this process, you will receive a parent report twice a year. Additionally, you will be able to access all your child's reports, including the mid-year results, through the LinkIt Parent Portal. Directions for accessing the portal will be shared with you by the district at the end of September and a presentation will be made at the October Board of Education meeting.

We value your partnership in supporting your child's literacy journey. Together, we can ensure that every student has the foundation they need to thrive as a reader. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Castrovinci, Curriculum Coordinator