

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the last few months, you may have heard the words Response to Intervention, or RTI. You may have wondered what RTI is and if Pleasant Hope Middle School has an RTI process in place.

The RTI model is being implemented at the middle school beginning this school year. Federal and state regulations have directed districts to focus more on helping all students who struggle with learning by addressing problems with increasing levels of intensity. The middle school RTI model will be called "**Pirate Time**". A 30 minute block of time has been added to your student's schedule between third and fourth period each day. During this time, your student will focus on strategies that will improve and/or enrich their reading experience.

Our school-wide screening tool for reading, the STAR test, will be administered to all students four times during the school year to determine the students who are at or above benchmark and students who will need supplemental instruction to meet grade level expectations. Students needing intervention will be monitored as needed with a curriculum based measure. Data from these tools and a variety of other sources will help us provide students with the best instruction.

We look forward to sharing additional information as we progress through the school year. For additional information on RTI, please visit our state website at:

www.dese.mo.gov/

Click on Three tiered model/RTI

Included with this letter is a parent guide about RTI. As always, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patricia Grindle

Middle School Counselor



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

WHAT IS “RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION” RTI?

RTI is a three-tiered problem solving model characterized by high-quality, research-based instruction and interventions that are matched to students’ learning and behavioral needs. In other words, a student experiences difficulty in the classroom, the teacher targets and addresses the weakness with sound teaching practices, progress is monitored frequently, and instruction is adjusted accordingly.

HOW DOES RTI WORK?

When a child begins to have some area of concern affecting his/her school progress the teacher will create an intervention plan designed to improve the student’s performance. If the child continues to have difficulty, the teacher will meet with a team of other staff members to discuss the child’s needs, consider other interventions, and outline a method to carefully monitor the child’s progress**. The child’s progress is measured over time. If he/she makes acceptable progress the interventions may be discontinued (if sufficient progress is made) or continued (if the team feels the interventions are needed to help the student succeed). If the child continues to struggle then more intensive interventions may be tried.

**This team – referred to as the “RTI Team” – uses the insight and expertise of several different school staff members. Team members contribute in different ways to the RTI process: offering suggestions, gathering data and communicating with other staff and/or parents. The team meets regularly to discuss and monitor student concerns.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PARENT IN RTI?

Parents have an important role throughout the RTI process. Teachers will communicate concerns regarding their student and invite parent participation in telephone conversations and/or team meetings regarding their child. Parents provide insight into their child’s learning and developmental history to help us understand the problem and why it occurs. This helps us prepare and implement an intervention plan, and measure and evaluate the plan’s effectiveness. Parents should contact their child’s teacher with any concerns regarding academics or behavior.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD MAKE PROGRESS?

Here are some suggestions on how you can help your child make progress:

1. Read together for 15-30 minutes every day, and read things that are enjoyable for your child.
2. Celebrate your child's progress.
3. Stay in touch with your child's teacher. Attend parent/teacher conferences when possible. If you can't be there, call or provide an e-mail address for your child's teacher.
4. Help your child to develop healthy study and homework skills by:
 - Providing a quiet space for your child to do their homework.
 - Setting a consistent and reasonable schedule for homework completion.
 - Being available to provide assistance.