

# ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
200 N. MAPLE ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722  
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

Dear Parents,

The teachers and administrators at our school are committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, our school uses a test called DIBELS to help us examine how your child is doing in learning important reading skills. The DIBELS will be given in the next few weeks to every Franzen student.

DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. At our level, DIBELS tests two skills. Children who learn these skills become good readers. The skills are:

- Accurate and Fluent Reading: Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes
- Comprehension: Understanding what is spoken or read

DIBELS is made up of two short individual tests, called subtests. Each DIBELS subtest focuses on a different skill and takes about 3 minutes to do.

Each DIBELS subtest takes only about three minutes to do because they are used as indicators. Much like using a thermometer to take a child's temperature is an indicator of overall health, each subtest is an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular early reading skill. DIBELS is used with millions of children throughout the United States. A child's score on a subtest tells us whether the child is likely to be "on track" for learning to read, or whether that child may need some help in learning important reading skills. Your child's teacher will use the information to better help your child. For example, the DIBELS test may tell us that we need to spend more time teaching your child how to "sound out" unknown words.

DIBELS is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress. DIBELS also may be used by your school to make decisions about how well the school's overall reading program is working for all children. DIBELS should never be used to grade your child, or for decisions about retention.

We are working hard at school to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank you for your efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader.

Sincerely,

Mr. Murphy



**RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY**  
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**ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE**  
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