



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

Rhonda Lessel, Associate Director | lesser01@wsdmi.org | Phone: (248) 706-4867

Waterford School District Launches Waterford READS *Guarantees all Waterford Students will Read at Grade Level by end of Third Grade*

September 2, 2015 Waterford, Mich. – The ability to read is critical to a child's success in school, that's why the Waterford School District has launched Waterford READS, a guarantee that all Waterford students will read at grade level by the end of third grade.

What makes success in third grade so significant is this is the year that students move from learning to read to reading to learn. Third grade is a critical transition when fluent reading begins and books are no longer simple primers but fact-filled texts.

The guarantee means that the District will focus resources on grade level reading in grades preK-3. Research-based interventions will be used when students are not reading at grade level. Content specialists, interventionists, and teachers will analyze data on specific students to determine why they are not reading at grade level and prescribe the best intervention. If more time is necessary, then more time will be provided. If a new intervention is necessary, a new intervention will be provided.

So what's the key to this success? Focus. This will be the single most important objective for staff who work in grades preK-3. "All training, all discussions, and all staff will be working toward this single objective. That's powerful", says Superintendent Dr. Keith Wunderlich. "We're raising the academic bar in Waterford. You're going to notice, and love, the difference."

###