

Dear Families:

As our children grow, we are given information in charts to see how they are progressing. Our doctors weigh and measure our children and display this information in a chart that compares where our child stands compared to other children. These charts help doctors understand if our children are growing properly or if something may be wrong, enabling them to do something to help as soon as possible. Height and weight are used as a "Well Check".

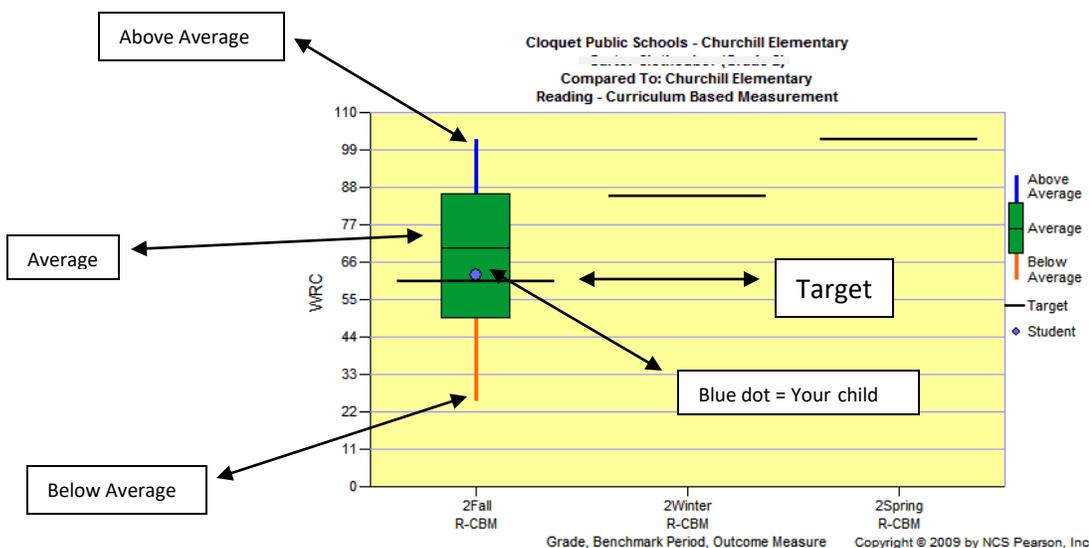


We all know how important it is for our children to "grow" in reading as well. In fact, successfully learning to read at an early age is probably one of the most important factors in a child's learning, both inside and outside of school.

Because reading growth is so important, on a regular basis, Washington and Churchill Elementary Schools are going to give you "Well Check" information indicating how your child is reading. This information will be given to you three times per year. Generally, the first "Well Check" is given within the first weeks of school.

The reading "Well Checks" are simple and accurate. We will have your child read three stories from passages at their grade level. These readings are timed for 1 minute, and then we will count the words they read correctly. If your child is in Kindergarten or First Grade, we will check how many letters or sounds your child can name. In total each "Well Check" takes about 5 minutes. You can think of it as taking your child's reading temperature.

Teachers will use these "Well Checks" to help them plan their reading instruction. This information will help them individualize lessons for students who are above or below average in their reading abilities. The "Well Check" information for your child will be put on a chart and your child's teacher will explain it to you at conferences.



On the chart, you will see how your child compares to other classmates in the same grade across the nation. The average number of words your child reads correctly in 1 minute is shown by the **blue** dot. The **black** horizontal line is the target (**very middle score**) and the **green** box shows scores of **average** readers in this grade. Scores along the **blue** vertical line above the green box are **above average** readers, while scores along the **red** vertical line below the green box are **below average** readers.

There is a similar math report that indicates your child's progress on math skills. These “Well Checks” are administered during the fall, winter, and spring when the reading checks are done.

As a school staff, we are excited about our ability to know where all of our students are at on their path to being successful readers and learners. We hope that you are excited as well. We look forward to seeing and talking with you regarding the progress of your child.

If you have any questions about our AimsWeb Reading Program (Well Checks), please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Jennifer Larva, Director of School Improvement