



Blackburn Elementary
17302 R.D. Mize Rd.
Independence, MO 64057
816-521-5395
Laura LaCroix, Principal

August 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Hi! My name is Mrs. Stephanie Dimmitt. I am the Reading Specialist here at Blackburn Elementary. I taught for 10 years in Kindergarten, First Grade, Third Grade, and Title I Reading. The last four years have been in the Independence School District. I have a Masters degree in Reading and Literacy and a Bachelors of Science degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

This year our reading team will consist of Mary Moore, Mary Patik, and myself. As a school-wide Title 1 school, we will strive to:

- identify students most in need of educational help (regardless of income)
- measure student progress using state and local standards
- set goals for improvement
- implement research-based instructional programs that supplement regular classroom instruction
- improve professional knowledge and skills through continuing education
- involve parents in all aspects of the school's Title I program

The goal of a school-wide program is to improve student achievement throughout the entire school. Individual students are not identified as eligible to participate. Rather, *every* child will benefit from the added services and programs that a school-wide Title I plan can offer. All school staff focus on strengthening the entire educational program and improving the achievement of all students, particularly those who are low-achieving. In addition, a school improvement plan must be developed and implemented with the involvement of parents, teachers, principals, and administrators. Essentially, a school-wide program helps a school do more for all of its students.

Attached you will find information explaining some of the Title I procedures and practices. These include the *Title I - Parent Involvement Policy*, *No Child Left Behind Information*, and *Complaint Procedure*.

If you have any questions regarding the Title I program here at Blackburn Elementary, feel free to contact me at (816) 521-5395 or stephanie_dimmitt@indep.k12.mo.us. I look forward to working with you and your children this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stephanie Dimmitt
Reading Specialist