



March 14, 2007

Dear School Board Members,

HOW ABOUT THOSE THIRD GRADERS! This letter is to let you know how proud I am of the third grade students. They worked real hard to achieve the goal of 100% on their reading TAKS test. With having twenty-seven students at risk I was worried about how they would perform on the test.

I want to take this time and let you know that I thank the teachers in the lower grades for their hard work. It also helped that Mrs. Plunk was my student teacher when she came to Brackett ISD and she followed through with the same program that I do in third grade. For the last three years there has been an easy transition from second to third. I also want to send a big crocodile thank you to the parents as well.

I was asked to share what I do in third grade. My teaching strategy is that what you do for the at-risk students, helps everyone. I have vocabulary pictures, star map, and an index card system (that includes games) that helps the students with their vocabulary. I use trade books, read-alouds, and basal selections for their literature. The students also complete three work stations every week: computer, listening and reading comprehension to enrich the reading text for the week. The Marie Carbo book-taped method is something else I do with the at-risk students. This program helps them with their fluency and comprehension. Last, I used the EDCON reading comprehension vocabulary development series for my twenty-seven tiered-II tutorial program.

I can say with all honesty that I am delighted that I do not have to face the TAKS READING MONSTER any more!

Wishing Brackett ISD All The Best,

Mrs. Judy Burks
Third Grade Reading Teacher

April 14, 2008

Mrs. Renken has pointed out - achievement is a team effort. This current class of eighth graders were the first class as Mrs. Burks' third graders, the first as fifth graders, and now the first as eighth graders to fall under the Student Success Initiative guidelines. Without a doubt, they understand the importance of passing their TAKS Reading Test to advance a grade level. To date there are only thirty total students in the class.

As their teacher I guided them and challenged them to do their best, but the accomplishment is theirs. Of the twenty-five students tested on the regular TAKS in March, sixteen achieved a 'Commended' score. I strongly believe our continued requirement of the Accelerated Reader program K12 greatly contributes to our success in reading.

Thank you.



**Candace Bader,
8th Grade
Language Arts**