

Jackson Township Elementary

News from the Principal's Desk

Brad Ennen
Principal
ennenbr@clay.k12.in.us

LaKyla Penrod
School Secretary
penrodlak@clay.k12.in.us

Amy Switzer
School Nurse
switzeramy@clay.k12.in.us



I want to take a moment to share the importance of the ILEARN assessment and how families can play a powerful role in helping students feel prepared and confident. ILEARN is Indiana's statewide summative assessment, administered each spring to students in grades 3 through 8. For our third through fifth graders, these assessments provide valuable insights into their academic progress in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science (grade 4), and Social Studies (grade 5).

The ILEARN assessment is designed to measure how well students have mastered Indiana's rigorous academic standards. It helps educators understand what students know and are able to do at the end of the school year. Results from ILEARN also help guide instruction, inform school improvement efforts, and provide parents with a clearer picture of their child's learning. While we understand that no single test can define a student's abilities, ILEARN plays a critical role in ensuring that we are meeting educational benchmarks and supporting every child's growth. It's not just a test — it's an opportunity for students to show what they've learned and how they've grown academically.

April

Character Qualities

- Kindness
- Dependability
- Respect for the Environment
- Sportsmanship
- Pride

Upcoming Events

Apr 14 - ILearn Begins in 3-5
Apr 18 - Good Friday - no school
Apr 22 - 3rd to Lucas Oil Field
Apr 29 - 2nd to Indy Zoo and 1st to ISU and Allen Memorial Planetarium

ILearn

Grades 3-5 will begin taking the required state assessment called ILearn on April 14.

How Parents Can Help Their Child Be Successful in School and on Assessments?

Parents play a crucial role in their child's academic success. When parents are involved, students tend to have better attendance, improved behavior, and higher achievement. Here are several effective ways parents can support their child both in school and on assessments:

1. Create a Supportive Learning Environment at Home

Set a routine that includes time for homework, reading, meals, and sleep. Provide a quiet, well-lit space for studying, free from distractions like television and social media. Encourage organization by helping your child use a planner or calendar to track assignments and test dates.

2. Stay Engaged with School

Attend parent-teacher conferences, school events, and stay in contact with teachers. Use school portals or apps to monitor grades, assignments, and attendance. Show interest in what your child is learning—ask about their day and discuss topics they're studying.

3. Support Academic Skills

Read together or discuss books to build comprehension and vocabulary. Help your child develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through everyday activities (like cooking or budgeting). Encourage regular review sessions rather than cramming before a test.

4. Promote Healthy Habits

Ensure your child gets enough sleep, especially before test days. Provide nutritious meals that fuel focus and energy. Encourage physical activity and time to relax, which can reduce stress and improve mental health.

5. Help Them Prepare for Assessments

Practice with sample tests or flashcards to review key concepts. Teach test-taking strategies like reading instructions carefully, pacing themselves, and eliminating wrong answers. Focus on effort and improvement rather than just grades or scores—build confidence and a growth mindset.

6. Be Positive and Encouraging

Celebrate small successes and effort, not just final results. Avoid pressure and comparison—every child learns differently. Be a role model by showing curiosity, persistence, and a love for learning.