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TO: FRONTIER SECOND GRADE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
FROM: RON REDDEN, PRINCIPAL
RE: SECOND GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION
DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have a unique and exciting opportunity to help your student grow academically. Each year, we receive grant money through the Title I, Part A, Federal Title Program. Traditionally, we've used that money to hire tutors for the TAKS grades, and when the opportunity becomes available, for the first and second grades as well. I am please to tell you that Monique Green, a certified elementary teacher, joined us just before Labor Day to assist us with our first and second grade students.

Just recently we learned that we received additional money over our allotment. I met with the second grade teachers and we began to brainstorm about ways in which we could effectively use that money. After two weeks of intensive planning, we developed a plan that we believe will help all second grade students, not just those in need of intervention. Beginning Monday, we will put into place one of the most innovative plans I've ever seen for assisting all students. The plan involves using most of the additional money to hire a tutor exclusively for second grade. That enabled us to do several things. First, we used several diagnostic tests and inventories to identify academic strengths and weaknesses in all of our students. Every child was given each diagnostic tool we used. We discovered many different things about our second grade students. A few scored very high on the tests and inventories. Others performed with mixed success, while a **significant** portion of the students scored below grade level in math, Language Arts/Reading, or both. Our plan designates our Language Arts period and our math period as times when we will provide specialized instruction. Our high students will be able to focus on skills that they still need to learn and master beyond what they've already mastered. Our middle group will continue at their current instructional pace, but with the added benefit of receiving additional instruction on difficult to obtain concepts. Our two groups of students in need of intervention will benefit by receiving direct instruction by our regular second grade teachers, with the assistance of each of our tutors. That arrangement allows us to immediately reinforce instruction and remediate areas of greatest concern. Having two teachers in the room at the same time will reduce our student to teacher ratio

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from 22:1 to 11:1, with a big emphasis on working with groups of four or five students at a time. Second, we have separate groups for both math and LA/Reading. For example, we have students who are low in one subject assigned to the high group in another subject, and vice versa. Third, the groups will be fluid. That means that we will re-evaluate our groupings every three to six weeks to determine which group is most appropriate for each one of them for the next period of instruction. It is possible that your child could move through as many as three groups or more by the end of the year. Children learn differently and at varying paces. A student might be strong on one set of concepts in a subject area and weak on another. The fluidity of the groups allows us to address those deficiencies and build on those strengths.

At 11:10 each day, all children will return to their homeroom teacher for the remainder of the day.

On Fridays, students will remain with their homeroom teacher the entire day to work on TAKS strategies and other activities.

Our groups will be organized in the following manner:

Language Arts/Reading

High group – Ms. Parsons
Middle Group – Ms. Loftin
Low Group – Ms. Atchison with a tutor
Low group – Ms. Sullenberger with a tutor

Math

High group – Ms. Loftin
Middle group – Ms. Parsons
Low group – Ms. Atchison with a tutor
Low group – Ms. Sullenberger with a tutor

Our intention is to begin this Monday.

If you have any questions about the plan, you can address them to me by calling (979) 849-8241, or by e-mailing me at <mailto:jredden@angletonisd.net> . Of course, you are always welcome to come by the office.

Best regards,

Ron Redden

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