October 1, 2004

Dear Parents,

The school year is underway with many new transitions and activities. I have spent this first month getting to know your child as a person, as well as a sixth grade reader. Each student in my class has his or her own strengths and areas of need.

Now that I have a better understanding of how my students function as readers, we will begin to work with a teaching model known as Direct Instruction. You may not be familiar with this model. We will not have the more familiar basal reading books of the past. Instead, each student will be reading on his or her individual level. This program is specifically designed to meet the needs of students in grades 3 through 12 that are struggling with reading. Direct Instruction is a research based teaching model that provides careful integration, practice, and management details to help the problem reader succeed.

The specific aspects of this program provide information that the students, teachers and parents need for continued success. First, the lessons are scripted for me as the teacher, to make certain I am completing activities as the program’s developers and researchers intended. The students are asked to respond in a systematic manner. Also, the students receive daily practice in oral reading with immediate feedback. Through ongoing assessments and record keeping, the students observe their individual progress in reading rate and accuracy. In addition, this means that as a parent, at any time you will be able to know exactly how your son or daughter is progressing. Finally, this model is successful in boosting self-esteem in students. They are able to succeed continuously due to the individualization of starting points and progression through skill sets.

We will begin work in this manner at the start of next week. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 583-7851.

Thank you for your continued support in your child’s education.

Respectfully,

Lisa Dever
6th Grade Special Services Reading Teacher