



Dear Parents,

Portville Central Schools (Grades 3-8) has implemented a program called *i-Ready® Diagnostic & Instruction* that will provide our students with an innovative diagnostic assessment and engaging instruction. The focus of this online program is reading and math. *i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction* helps teachers to effectively assess their students and then provide individualized instruction based on each student's unique needs.

i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction assesses and teaches the following skill areas:

Reading

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- High-Frequency Words
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Math

- Number and Operations
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Geometry

We began *i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction* by giving students an adaptive assessment in reading and math. An adaptive assessment is a test that automatically adjusts the difficulty of the questions according to each student's performance in order to determine his or her abilities in reading or math. Before your child began the assessment, it was important to set appropriate expectations. *i-Ready* is a very different kind of test that presents students with questions that can be both too easy and too hard. It is designed to do this until the assessment finds exactly the level at which the student is performing. Therefore, your child(ren) will certainly see some items above his or her level. We encouraged your child(ren) to independently complete the test to the best of his or her ability, and know that it is okay to get questions wrong.

Each time a student gets an item incorrect, he or she is presented with a simpler question until the diagnostic finds the grade level at which the student is performing. The assessment efficiently assesses students across multiple grade levels, allowing for identification of root causes of students' struggles or for identification of areas where a student is ready for further challenge. This information will then provide the teacher with a "road map" to instructional remediation.

Now that your child has completed the test, he or she has been assigned online instruction to support his or her progress in mastering each skill. The online instruction is designed to be both challenging and engaging. *i-Ready* delivers instruction using engaging, contemporary animation; the lessons are also interactive. The result is an experience that attracts and holds your child's interest while also teaching important skills and concepts. These lessons are proven to help students grow academically and are based on the Common Core Learning Standards for New York State.

In addition, *i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction* supports the teachers and administrators at PCS. The program provides a series of comprehensive reports designed to make classroom instruction more effective. These reports include data about student performance as well as detailed teaching suggestions. They help educators make informed decisions about the instruction that is right for your child.



Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Why are some questions so hard?	To enable a precise assessment, i-Ready Diagnostic is designed so that students will answer about 50% of the questions incorrectly. We need to understand what's too easy, what's too hard, and what's just right.
Why isn't there an "I don't know" option?	It is critical for the test design that the student answers the question correctly or incorrectly so that the test can adapt to an easier or more difficult question. For example, when students have an "I don't know" choice and they lack confidence, they are likely to select "I don't know" even when they may know the answer. It is better if they make an educated guess, as that provides a much more accurate estimate of a student's ability than giving them the option of "I don't know."
Should I help my child during the test?	We may help your child with any technical issues, such as adjusting your computer's speakers, but it is important that your child completes the test independently to the best of his or her ability so that we can get an accurate read and deliver instruction at his or her unique level.
Is i-Ready Diagnostic a timed test?	No, we encouraged your child to take his or her time on the test. In most cases, students completed the test over two sessions.

At this point in time, students have been given a unique username and password that is glued to the inside of their student agendas. While we are scheduling weekly times within the school day, we are asking for your support by having your child (ren) log on to the iReady website from home. Once logged in the student may work within Math or Reading lessons which are either assigned by the classroom teacher or by iReady. The website is located at <https://login.i-ready.com/>

You can monitor the lessons your child(ren) have completed at school or home by viewing the "My Progress" tab once they are in either the Math or Reading portion of the program. If you do not have access to a computer/internet, please don't be alarmed. This is optional for home and all students will have computer lab time weekly for iReady scheduled at school. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the elementary office or your child's teacher.

Thanks for all you do!

Lynn Corder



Portville Elementary Principal