



January Newsletter

Overbrook Attendance Center - BOE



Principal - Mrs. Lorle Bolt

A message from our principal

Third grade students will complete their interim assessments this month. Interim assessments are given at specific points during the school year to check how well students understand key concepts and apply important skills.

Think of interim assessments as part of a balanced assessment system:

- **Formative assessments** (such as classroom quizzes, observations, and discussions) help guide daily instruction.

- **Summative assessments** (such as end-of-year tests) measure overall learning.
- **Interim assessments** fall in between, providing valuable check-ins on student progress.

Interim assessments play an important role by:

- Helping teachers and students monitor learning progress
- Providing schools with data to adjust instruction and better support student achievement
- Preparing students for future state assessments

When used effectively, interim assessments help ensure students stay on track and allow teachers to tailor instruction to meet each child's needs.

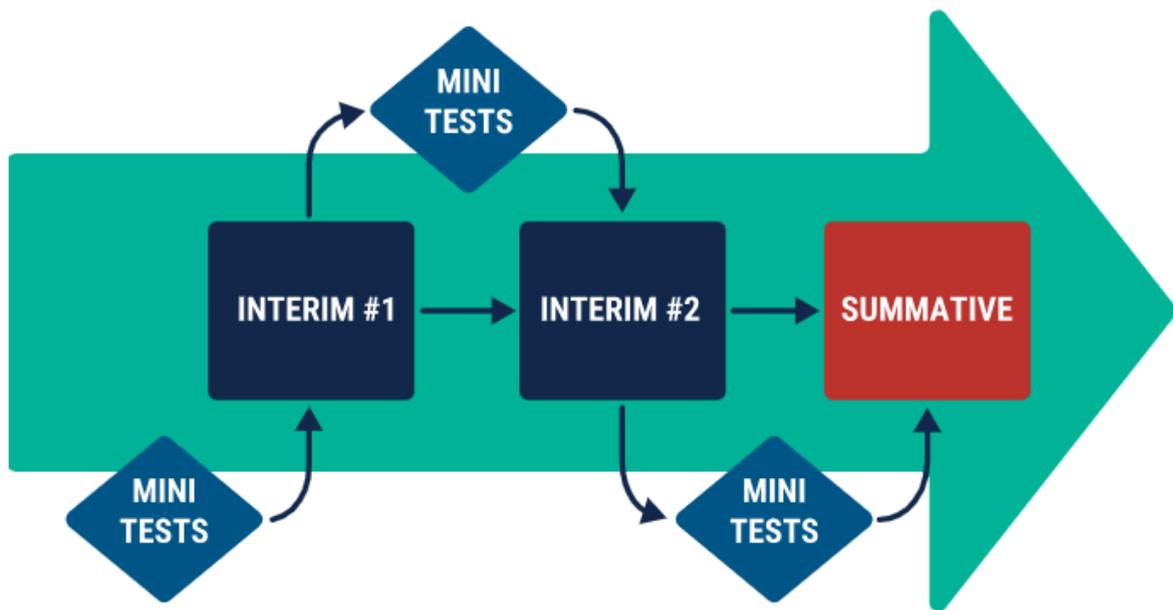


Diagram of Interims relative to the larger assessment system.

Attendance Partnership & Important Policy Update

At Overbrook, we deeply value our partnership with parents and families. We know that student success is a shared responsibility, and consistent attendance plays a critical role in academic achievement. If you ever have concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal.

We will continue to notify families if a student's attendance meets any thresholds outlined by state law and USD 434 policy. As part of this process, students with **less than 90% attendance during Quarter 2** will receive an **Attendance Awareness Letter**. This letter is informational only and is intended to help us work together toward meeting our building attendance goals. **Please note: this is NOT a disciplinary notice.**

Important Attendance Policy Change

Please be aware of an important change in attendance procedures for students who have accumulated **ten (10) absences** during the current school year.

While previous absences may have been excused through parent phone calls or emails, reaching the ten-day threshold triggers a **mandatory change** in how future absences are handled under district policy.

Effective changes:

- Phone calls or emails from parents can no longer be used to excuse absences. Please still call but note a doctor's note will now be required.
- Any future absence will be marked **unexcused** unless a **formal medical note** from a doctor or healthcare provider is submitted to the school office.
- If a medical note is not provided, the absence will be recorded as **unexcused**.

We understand that the second quarter often coincides with illness season, and we appreciate your efforts to balance student health and school attendance.

Helping All Students Succeed: Understanding Fastbridge Screening and Support

To ensure every student receives the support they need, we use a short screening assessment called Fastbridge up to three times a year. These assessments help teachers identify which students are on track to meet end-of-year learning goals and which ones may benefit from additional help.

Here's how we approach this process:

- **Assessments We Use:**
 - **Grades K-1:** *earlyReading* and *earlyMath*
 - **Grades 2-3:** *aReading*, *CBMreading*, and *aMath*
- After the screenings, teachers carefully review the results alongside other information about student performance.

For students who may need extra support, we provide additional instruction designed to help them meet their learning goals. To monitor progress, these students take short, regular tests (bi-weekly or dependent upon their needs) to track improvement and ensure the extra support is working.

Parents will receive information about their child's progress during parent-teacher conferences or at other points throughout the year. These updates help everyone—teachers, students, and families—stay informed about progress and work together to help each student succeed.

We appreciate your partnership in supporting your child's learning journey! If you have any questions about the screening or progress-monitoring process, feel free to reach out.

Upcoming Dates:

1/5: No School - Teacher Prep

1/6: No School - Professional Development Day

1/7: Classes Resume

1/14: 6pm BOE Meeting

1/19: No School (MLK Day)

BOE Goal 3: Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified Staff

USD 434 continues to invest in and train **Highly Qualified Mentors**, building instructional and behavioral capacity as new staff are hired and as teachers grow in new content areas and strategies. This ensures consistent support for beginning teachers and ongoing professional growth across the building.

This quarter, the **OAC team** focused intentionally on **school climate and culture** through a **6-week Team Reconnection Plan**, meeting in the mornings to rebuild trust, strengthen collaboration, and restore a positive workplace culture.

6-Week Team Reconnection Plan (Summary)

Purpose: Rebuild respect, empathy, and positive team habits

- **Week 1 – Reset & Reconnect:**

Acknowledged challenges, established a fresh start, and launched gratitude and kindness activities.

- **Week 2 – Human Connection:**

Staff participated in short partner conversations and shared interests to strengthen relationships.

- **Week 3 – Appreciation:**

Implemented recognition activities including shout-outs and a Wall of Wins.

- **Week 4 – Empathy & Understanding:**

Staff reflected on their roles and discussed how to better support one another.

- **Week 5 – Collaboration:**

Teams worked together on a small improvement project to build shared ownership.

- **Week 6 – Celebration & Sustainability:**

Staff celebrated progress and selected traditions to maintain a positive culture moving forward.

Ongoing Recognition & Staff Support

In addition to **Charger of the Month**, staff are now highlighted in **Peek at the Week** to celebrate effective classroom practices such as:

- Strong curriculum implementation
- Use of visual schedules
- Behavior incentives and student engagement strategies

This recognition reinforces best practices and strengthens morale by celebrating the daily work happening in classrooms.



Lorle Bolt

Lorle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters