

Dear Parents,

The *100 BOOK CHALLENGE* Independent Reading Program is in full swing in all K-4 classrooms across the district. Thank you for all of your support for this special initiative. Our goal is to ensure that EVERY STUDENT has opportunities EVERY DAY to read books that they can read and understand on their own. Yes, the books may seem very easy for your child to read, but that is the point. Since your child has no trouble reading the words, we can now dig deeper into the THINKING required by our new Standards by asking questions that go well beyond simply “Who is the character in the story?” or “What is the setting of the story?”

Research shows us that practicing reading benefits both high-performing and low-performing students. High-performing students are practicing reading 3.4 to 4.1 times more than low-performing students. The top 5% of readers read 144 times more than the bottom 5%. Students with lower reading abilities will have significant gains from reading practice up to 2.66 grade levels in one year, by reading one hour a day, every day. Students who read well and continue to read for an hour a day will be exposed to 4.7 million words a year.

Our mission is to grow readers. In order to grow readers, reading at home is required. Much like a parent requires a child to wear a safety belt in an automobile or to brush his or her teeth each night, these practices are required until they become habits. We want children to become avid readers, successful readers. We want them to see that reading is fun and exciting, and that it opens doors to new ideas. We want them to have access to books they can read and understand on their own. The 100 BOOK CHALLENGE program is our support system for creating access to books and supporting readers as they grow.

In addition to taking time with your child each night to support them in their reading, we ask that you help your child to fill out their log sheet. **REMEMBER: We are tracking TIME, not BOOKS.** We expect your child to read for 2 “Steps” each night Monday through Friday AND one Step Saturday, one step on Sunday. Each Step is 15 minutes, so 2 steps is 30 minutes each night. On the following holidays, Steps are optional: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Winter, February and April, Memorial Breaks

Each “STEP” is 15 minutes of reading, so 2 “STEPS” should be indicated on the log sheet. Only 2 lines need to be filled out.

- Example: If your child reads 5 books in 15 minutes, then they should choose 1 of their favorite books to write on the line/Step.
- Example: If your child is reading a chapter book and reads several pages over the course of 15 minutes, then they should indicate on their log the page numbers they read. The title might be the same on both lines/Steps.

Most importantly, please SIGN on the line for each Step your child read. You should also put a check mark or X in the “HOME” column to indicate that the reading was done at home.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher anytime with any further questions about this exciting initiative.

THE MORE YOU READ. THE SMARTER YOU GET!