



August 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

Because research shows that reading on a daily basis helps students become better readers, our fourth grade team is encouraging independent reading through three vehicles—a weekly reading log, a reading contest, and a computer-based reading program.

Reading Logs

The purpose of the reading log is to develop the habit of reading on a daily basis. Your child is expected to read 15 minutes each day for 5 out of 7 days each week. Any material can be read for the log and different books can be read each night if your child so chooses. The reading log will be required throughout the entire year of fourth grade.

This log will be collected every Friday and a new one will be given out that day. The teacher and students will keep a record of the number of days and times that are read each week so that both students and teachers can monitor individual growth and progress throughout the year. Students will have many opportunities to reflect on their reading progress and share their enthusiasm about the books they are reading with others.

Reading Contest

In order to encourage students to read and enjoy a book from start to finish, we have designed a reading contest for each trimester for the whole fourth grade. When your child completes a book, s/he will turn in a contest book slip. Again, because research shows that the more a child reads the more likely it is that reading and writing skills will improve, we encourage students to read a certain amount of pages each trimester. For first trimester, we recommend that your child reads **a minimum of 500 pages**. This guideline may be adjusted based on the needs of an individual child.



The book slip is to be completed and turned in whenever your child finishes a book. We would like to request that you ask your child several questions about the book that s/he has finished before you sign the book slip form to make certain that your child understands what s/he has read. Because this is an honor system, your help in this area is very important to the success of this program for your child.

In order to have a fair system for varying levels of books, we have established some guidelines for certain books that are easier to read for most of our fourth graders:

Type of Book	Number of Pages to Count
Comic Books	50 pages
Choose-Your-Own Adventure	50 pages
Picture Books	Half of the book pages
Poetry Books	Half of the book pages
Graphic Novels	Half of the book pages



Again, these guidelines may be adjusted based on the needs of an individual child. If you or your child has questions about any book or other reading material or think that your child should get full credit on a book, please have your child speak to his or her reading teacher for approval.

At the end of the trimester, fourth grade will have a special Reading Assembly to honor the reading accomplishments of our fourth graders. One of the accomplishments that we celebrate is the winning contest team. If your child is on the winning team in the reading contest, s/he will receive a certificate, a bookmark, and a free book.

Accelerated Reader (AR)

The third part of our reading program in fourth grade is our district computer-based reading program called “Accelerated Reader” (AR) that your child has already used. In fourth and fifth grade students are able to read from a wide range of levels. After your child has read a book, s/he will take a short test on the computer about that book. In the LRC the AR books are identified by a color-coded label on the book spine so that your child can pick appropriate reading level books. Levels are not given out to students. They only know the colors from which they should choose. Your child’s reading teacher will let you know what the requirements are for this program for each trimester. You will be able to access the AR Book Lists from home by following these steps:



1. Go to our district website: www.lisle202.org
2. Click on “Schiesher.”
3. Click on “LRC.”
4. Click on “AR Book List.”
5. Follow the instructions in this section to access your child’s book lists.

Individual Reading Goals

We also are asking your child to set an individual reading goal for each trimester. We would like to request that you talk with your child about that goal so that we can all help your child to choose a realistic and attainable goal. We will encourage your child to

increase this goal somewhat each trimester, and we will send home a goal sheet for you and your child to sign each time a new trimester reading goal is set.

The Red Hot Reading Club

We have developed a program called “The Red Hot Reading Club” to encourage students to complete all the components of our reading program. To become a “Red Hot Reader,” your child has to accomplish the following requirements:

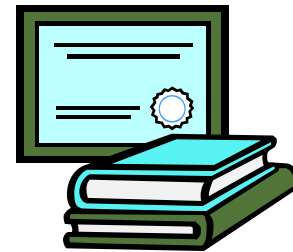
- Turn in completed logs every week
- Read a minimum of 48 days in the first trimester
- Read the number of pages recommended in his/her reading class
- Meet the classroom Accelerated Reader requirements
- Successfully reach his/her individual reading goal.



The requirements are also on a sheet following this letter. If your child makes it into the “Red Hot Reading Club,” s/he will be honored with a certificate and free book at our reading assembly at the end of each trimester. If s/he becomes a “Red Hot Reader” all three trimesters, s/he will receive a special certificate and ribbon plus a fourth free book for this accomplishment.

We are including a sample log and sample book slip so you know how to fill them out. Please sign the attached form and return it so we know that you have read this letter. Thank you for your help with our reading program. We couldn’t do it without you. We hope the program will help to hook your child on books!

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Team



PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM.

Thank You!

I have read your letter about your independent reading program that includes the following components:

- ✓ turning in a weekly reading log
- ✓ reading a certain number of days in the trimester
- ✓ turning in contest book slips for completed books
- ✓ taking tests in the Accelerated Reader program on the books my child reads
- ✓ setting an individual goal for the amount of pages to be read in a trimester

I have discussed the reading program with my child, and we have agreed on the first trimester goal.



My Reading Goal Is...

1ST TRIMESTER

This trimester my goal is to read _____ pages.

Student's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____



Comments/Questions: