



Dear Parents,

In an effort to increase students' reading abilities, it is extremely important that children are spending plenty of time reading in and out of school. The amount of time spent reading is directly linked to reading growth. As a grade level, we have committed to raising the number of minutes students read. Hopefully, students and parents will dedicate themselves to this same commitment at home. Beginning the first week of school, each child is expected to read a minimum of 150 minutes per week as homework. **Please be involved in this process.** You will need to monitor that your child is satisfying this requirement. Students will be tracking the number of minutes spent reading on a "bookmark" that will be carried back and forth from school to home with the book they are reading each day. The "bookmark" will allow students to track the number of minutes they are reading daily, how many days in which they are finishing a book, and serve as a record of completed books once it is turned in.

Although **it is best to read on a daily basis**, it is up to your child and you to determine HOW the minutes will be broken up over the week. Students can read seven days (recommended), six days or five days a week. They can read for 20, 30, 40 minute chunks or even longer. Students should be reading in meaningful chunks. Reading should be enjoyable and needs to fit into your family's schedule.

Children should read for as long as a book "holds" them. If your child is reading a "just right" book, you may find they are reading much longer than the 150 minute minimum requirement.

There are several ways that your child can engage in reading at home. Each type develops different reading skills. Depending on your child's needs, spending one - two times per week engaging in each type of reading may help encourage your child's love for reading.

## Types of Reading

- Reading silently to themselves (comprehension)
- Reading orally to a parent (comprehension and fluency)
- Taking turns reading orally with a parent - first the child reads, then the parent reads (comprehension, fluency and auditory understanding)
- Listening as the parent reads to them (comprehension and auditory understanding)

Make reading a family affair. Snuggle in and read together on the couch or in bed. This not only encourages a great bonding opportunity, but it gives you an excellent way to monitor your child's comprehension and model **your** thinking strategies as **you** read. Reading and talking about books at a higher level takes years of practice. You will be amazed at your child's growth if you make reading and talking about the stories a regular routine in your home.

Thank You for your Support,  
Angela Risch & Nancy Yehle