



Holy Ghost Catholic School

Accelerated Reader Parent/Student Guide

Mission Statement

To foster the love of reading in all children through a software program that motivates, monitors, and manages student reading practice.

Goal

To improve reading by accelerating growth in reading ability, developing lifelong learners and critical thinkers, and improving test scores.

Eligible Participants

All 2nd -8th grade students must participate fully in the program during all quarters. Students will receive a Reading grade for AR requirements. 1st grade students will “learn” the AR program during the second quarter and participate fully by third quarter. No grade/rubric for 1st grade.

Home Connect

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s progress by visiting the Home Connect option on the RenLearn website. This is a parent’s way of monitoring progress from home. *A personalized letter with login information will be sent home before the first day of AR.*

Goal Setting

Students in 1st-6th grades will be assessed using the STAR Assessment Software to help determine their reading level and zone at which optimal learning takes place (ZPD). Students (2nd-6th) will begin the year with the ZPD level garnered on the STAR test taken at the end of the previous school year. Students will be assessed again in December to determine growth and finally again in May. Students in 1st Grade will be assessed at end of first semester. Based on this level, and the number of weeks in the quarter, teachers will determine the number of points that a student must read in order to reach his/her goal, based on a goal setting chart provided by Renaissance Learning. This goal is based on 15 minutes of reading per day in the classroom as well as 15 minutes of reading at home per night. Students in 5th/6th grade will have a goal based on 15 minutes of at home reading only. Students in 7th/8th grade will have a book level/book point goal to reach. English 1 students will be required to read chapter books with a minimum book level approved by the English 1 teacher. The goal will be set according to number of weeks in the AR quarter. (This usually ranges from 32-40 points.)

Reaching the Goal

Please remember that **3 components** must be met in order for the student to reach 100% of his/her goal:

- Reading at his/her set book level or above
- Achieve average of 80% or above on comprehension on tests
- Earn book points until you reach 100% of goal

Students in 2nd-4th and 7th-8th grades will receive a **summative** Reading grade each quarter based on their performance in reaching their AR goal. Students in 5th-6th grades will receive a **formative** Reading grade each quarter based on their performance in reaching their AR goal. English 1 will receive a **summative** Reading grade each quarter based on their performance in reaching their AR goal. (See rubrics on our website.)

Please note

- Teachers conference with students about their progress weekly. Please also monitor your child's progress through your Home Connect.
- Students in 4th Grade must read chapter books with a minimum of 1 point, 5th/6th must read chapter books with a minimum of 2 points, 7th/8th must read chapter books with a minimum of 3 points to earn their goal.
- Tests cannot be deleted because of a poor score.
- Students must complete the test in one sitting.
- Students who are absent cannot come to school to take an AR test.
- AR deadlines cannot be extended for any reason.
- In 7th/8th grade, students can test on **one** classroom novel per quarter only.

Incentives

Points Club – Students will be challenged to become a member of the "Points Club." Once a student reaches his/her goal, he/she should be encouraged to continue reading and earning points. Students who reach the required points by the end of the AR period for the 4th 9 weeks will become a member. Students reaching this status will be awarded a medal at one of the quarterly "Honors Day Celebrations". At the end of the school year, the students will be invited to a celebration. To be a member of the "Points Club" students must reach the following points:

1st graders – 25

2nd graders – 50

3rd graders – 75

4th graders – 100

5th graders – 125

6th graders - 150

7th graders – 175

8th graders - 200.

In addition, the student who has the highest points at the end of the school year, will be recognized at the last Honors Day Celebration and receive a special medal.

Important Dates

- August 14-October 9 - 1st quarter of AR (8 weeks)
- October 14-December 13 - 2nd quarter of AR (8 weeks)
- January 6-February 21 - 3rd quarter of AR (7 weeks)
- March 2-April 24 - 4th quarter of AR (7 weeks)
- May 1 - Points Club celebration

Library Hours:

The library is **open** before and after school **every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**. (Closed during these times on Tuesday and Thursday.)

AR Questions:

Please email cwagner@hgschool.org with any questions you may have.

Books not eligible for AR testing:

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

The Westing Game

The Watsons Go to Birmingham

Charlotte's Web

George Washington's Socks

Wonder

Tuck Everlasting

Where the Red Fern Grows

Hoot

Island of the Blue Dolphins

Holes

James and the Giant Peach

Hatchet

Number the Stars

Because of Winn-Dixie

Nothing but the Truth

The Giver

The Outsiders

Of Mice and Men

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

To Kill a Mockingbird

Witch of Blackbird Pond

Chocolate Fever

Slime Wars

The Cricket in Times Square

Hatchet

My Brother Sam is Dead

I Am Malala

A Long Walk to Water

Summer in a Day

The Cricket in Times Square

A Christmas Carol

Ugly

The Hound of Baskervilles

Ender's Game

Please print this page and send to school with your child.

Accelerated Reader Signature Page

We have read and understand the requirements set forth for Accelerated Reader for the 2019-20 school year.

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent Signature

Printed student name: _____

Student's homeroom teacher: _____

