



# 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students must participate fully in the program during all quarters. Students will receive a Reading grade for AR requirements. 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be introduced to the program in library class during the second quarter, “learn” the AR program during the third quarter with “practice” goals and participate fully by fourth quarter. No grade/rubric for 1<sup>st</sup> 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-4th 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-4th) 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 at end 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to determine growth and finally again in May.

Students in 1st Grade will be assessed at end of third 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 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will have a book level/book point goal to reach.

\*5<sup>th</sup> 3.6 book level/8 points

\*6<sup>th</sup> 3.8 book level/10 points

\*7<sup>th</sup> 4.0 book level/15 points

\*8<sup>th</sup> 4.0 book level/20 points

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 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will receive a **summative** Reading grade each quarter based on their performance in reaching their AR goal. Students in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> must read chapter books with a minimum of 2 points, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> 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. (\*Extended absences of consecutive days will be monitored for adjustment – however students should continually be working toward their goal so they don't fall behind.)
- In 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

**1<sup>st</sup> graders – 25**

**2<sup>nd</sup> graders – 50**

**3<sup>rd</sup> graders – 75**

**4<sup>th</sup> graders – 100**

**5<sup>th</sup> graders – 125**

**6<sup>th</sup> graders - 150**

**7<sup>th</sup> graders – 175**

**8<sup>th</sup> 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 10-October 3 - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of AR (8 weeks)
- October 4-December 12 - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of AR (9 weeks)
- January 3-March 10 - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of AR (9 weeks)
- March 13-May 5 - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of AR (7 weeks)

## **AR Questions:**

Please email [cwagner@hgschool.org](mailto:cwagner@hgschool.org) with any questions you may have.

## **Books not eligible for AR testing:**

*Charlotte's Web*

*Frindle*

*Freckle Juice*

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*

*Double Fudge*

*Number the Stars*

*Henry and the Clubhouse*

*Because of Winn-Dixie*

*The Lemonade Wars*

*The One and Only Ivan*

*Matilda*

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

*James and the Giant Peach*

*Holes*

*The Phantom Tollbooth*

*Auggie and Me*

*Restart*

*Wonder*

*Hatchet*

*Tuck Everlasting*

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

*City of Ember*

*Legend*

*Ground Zero*

*The Giver*

*Long Walk to Water*

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

*The Westing Game*

*Ender's Game*

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

*Flush*

*The Watson's Go to Birmingham*

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*The Outsiders*

*Of Mice and Men*

*Nothing but the Truth*

*Juliet's Story*

*Tales from the Odyssey Part 1 and Part 2*

*Romeo and Juliet*

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 2022-23 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature

Printed student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_