



# 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 “learn” the AR program during the second quarter and participate fully by third 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-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 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade will have a goal based on 15 minutes of at home reading only. Students in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> 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 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.
- 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 14-October 9 - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of AR (8 weeks)
- October 14-December 13 - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of AR (8 weeks)
- January 6-February 21 - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of AR (7 weeks)
- March 2-April 24 - 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

