

Daily Reading Makes ‘Stars’ out of Students

With our school-wide Accelerated Reader program, we expect reading skills and reading enjoyment to reach the STARS this year—Sherwood’s Top Accelerated Readers, that is! “STARS” is the theme for our independent reading program, and students are already well on their journey! In the Accelerated Reader “STARS” Program, students earn points by reading books at their level and taking a short quiz on the computer. Points are totaled monthly, and determine the number of beads that students are able to add to their personal AR necklace. Necklaces are proudly displayed in each classroom, and are worn on special days at school.

Goals for the year have been set for each grade level, and students who meet or exceed their goal will win a medal in June.

Kindergarten – 10 points
Grade – 60 points

1st Grade – 20 points
2nd Grade – 40 points

3rd
4th Grade – 80 points
5th Grade – 100 points

A reward even better than beads and medals is the skills students will gain through daily reading! Did you know that if your child reads 30 minutes a day, he or she is likely to score in the 90th percentile of students across the nation on standardized reading tests? Imagine that! You can boost your child’s reading skills and performance by simply asking him to read every day! And with our school’s AR program, there are more than 120,000 titles that students can choose from! Remember to visit www.arbookfind.com to help your child find a “just right” book!

The following chart shows the importance of time spent reading and the relationship to percentile ranking on standardized reading assessments:

Independent Reading Minutes Per Day	Words Read Per Year	Percentile Rank on Standardized Tests
67.3	4,733,000	98 th
33.4	2,357,000	90 th
16.9	1,168,000	70 th
9.2	601,000	50 th
4.3	251,000	30 th
1.0	51,000	10 th
0.0	0	2 nd

That is why we feel so passionate about our AR STARS program here at Sherwood Forest. We ask every student to read a minimum of 20 minutes (K-1) or 25 minutes (gr. 2-5) every night for five nights during the week. It is one of the most important homework activities which students can complete, and we need your support to make it happen. We hope that the parents of all 515 of our students are encouraging them to read on a regular basis. You can help by choosing a time each night for your child to read, by reading with or to your child, and by showing an interest in the books he chooses. If he makes more than five mistakes on any single page, you can ask his teacher to help him select “just right books” that are closer to his independent reading level. (It’s no fun to read and get frustrated by the difficult words, and that choppy reading does not allow comprehension skills to grow!)

In addition, we want to say thank you to the many parent volunteers who come to school every month to record AR minutes and award beads to students. They also award prizes to classrooms that meet monthly goals. Hats off to our PTA for your support of this vitally important program!

I know that all parents want their children to excel. By making time for reading, you can boost your child's performance dramatically! Remember that nightly reading can include someone reading to your child, your child reading aloud, your child reading with a partner, or your child reading silently. Re-reading all or part of the book is a good strategy for building fluency, and for remembering story details for the AR test.

Our next AR bead day is November 25, and students must complete their AR tests by November 24 if they want the points to count for November. Please make sure that reading is part of your child's regular routine. Your efforts will make a difference for the rest of your child's life!

Sincerely,
Barbara Bergman, Principal