

John Greer Reading Policy

Statement of Purpose:

Reading is a skill that is essential to the acquisition of knowledge. As with any skill, improvement depends on the amount of effort put into the practice of the skill. The John Greer Accelerated Reader Program (AR) provides students practice with the skill of reading. To ensure that students have equal access to this practice, these policies are implemented in every classroom at John Greer Elementary School.

Accelerated Reader Program Description:

The John Greer Elementary School Library has hundreds of Accelerated Reader books for students to choose from. Each book is associated with a grade level. Four times a year, students will take the STAR Reading Assessment. The results of this assessment may be used to determine the grade level range that would be appropriate for each student. Students are then given a grade level range out of which to choose Accelerated Reader books. Using the standardized Accelerated Reader Goal-Setting Chart, each student will be given a point goal for each quarter grading period. Teachers may choose to collaborate with students when setting point goals. After a student has read an AR book, he or she will take an on-line Reading Practice Quiz and be awarded points based on performance. In addition, several incentive programs encourage students to accumulate points through reading.

Determining Student Quarterly Accelerated Reader Point Goals:

The standardized Accelerated Reader Goal Setting Chart will be used to determine quarter point goals for all students. The STAR Reading Assessment will produce a Grade Equivalent Score and a Reading Range for each student. Using that row and the 30 Minute Daily Practice Points per 9 weeks column, a quarter point goal will be set for each student. Teachers may choose to collaborate with students when setting point goals. At the end of the quarter, a teacher may reevaluate a student's point goal and make slight adjustments for the next quarter, based upon student needs. Again, teachers may choose to include students in this adjustment process. Students may be allowed to take Accelerated Reader Practice Quizzes on classroom read-aloud books and other novels read during reading class. These points may count toward their quarter goal.

Accelerated Reader Incentives:

To promote student attainment of quarterly point goals, several incentive systems are used at John Greer. For every 5 Accelerated Reader Points that a student accumulates, he/she receives an Accelerated Reader Buck from the librarian that can be used to purchase products at the John Greer Library Accelerated Reader Store. Awards are also given to students as they reach the following Accelerated Reading Point Levels: 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, and 400. To assist students in attaining their quarter point goals, students who have not accumulated 50% of their total AR points by midterm each quarter, may be given an opportunity to read in a Noon Reading Room. Students who meet their quarter point goal will be rewarded by their homeroom teacher.

Accelerated Reader Communication:

At the beginning of the school year, this policy, as well as a handout promoting Accelerated Reader Incentives, is sent home to parents. Along with each student's Midterm Progress Report, a memo will be sent home that lists a student's point goal, number of points accumulated, and percentage of points accumulated. The form will need to be signed by student and parent and returned to school. Parents are also encouraged to check their student's progress through Accelerated Reader's website which is hosted as a link on the Hoopeston Area website (www.hoopeston.k12.il.us). Usernames and passwords are distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Silent Sustained Reading in School:

During the school day, all classroom teachers use the following times for silent sustained reading: Library time, homeroom period once per week minimum, and time left after math tests. Other times of silent sustained reading may occur per teacher discretion. At home, students are encouraged to read a minimum of 20 minutes each night.