



WORLD CHANGERS READ

Sternberger Elementary's Schoolwide Reading Program 2023-2024

- Program Date: September 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024
- Student Goal: For each student to read (or be read to) AT LEAST **20 minutes (K-2)** or **30 minutes (3-5)** *outside the regular school day* for at least 20 days out of each month.
- School Goals: **To encourage students to read outside the regular school day.**
For all students to meet or exceed their monthly student goal.

How Does It Work? Requirements for Grades K-5:

- Students in grades K-5 will read (or be read to) *outside the regular school day* for at least **20 minutes (K-2)** or **30 minutes (3-5)** daily for 20 days out of each month, including months with winter or spring breaks.
- Student or parent/guardian records the date and the title(s) of materials read. Titles can be abbreviated.
- Parent/guardian initials/signs to verify student's reading.
- All parts of the student reading log must be filled out for students to receive credit.
- The reading log sheet will be kept in the student's homework folder or student planner and will be checked daily or weekly by the classroom teacher.
- Reading logs must be turned in on time (by the classroom teacher's deadline) to be counted. (Teachers have monthly deadlines to submit their reading log information to Ms. Goodman.)
- Students' reading information must be accurately recorded in their teacher's monthly reporting information to earn students' incentives. **Corrections cannot be made in December or April.**
- Students' homework grades may be affected by their level of participation in the program, please refer to grade level grading policies for specifics.

Student Incentives:

INDIVIDUALS: Students have the opportunity to earn two free books during the school year.

- K-5 students can earn a free book if they meet their monthly **student goal** (see top) every month from September through December.
- K-5 students can also earn a free book if they meet their monthly **student goal** (see top) every month from January through April.

Ms. Goodman, Librarian

MORE INFORMATION 

Why Emphasize Reading Outside of School?

We encourage students to read (or be read to) at home as well as at school to make pleasure reading a lifelong habit for them. We believe there are academic and personal benefits to setting aside time for students to read what they want to read.

What does the Research Show?

The following are a few of the conclusions reached by researchers. Bulleted information comes from The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research by Stephen Krashen.

- If children read 1 million words a year, they add at least 1,000 words to their vocabulary.
- Reading is the way we become better readers.
- Children read more when they listen to stories and discuss stories – even college students read more books and better books when they were read to.
- Children read more when they see others, like parents and teachers, reading for pleasure.
- Students who reported more reading outside of school showed greater achievement in reading comprehension.
- Reading more improves writing skills and spelling skills also.

Suggestions

- Emphasize the reading and not the time! We have minimum times K-2 and 3-5 for consistency and fairness in administering the program, but what's important is that students take time to read something they want to read!
- Nothing says it has to be a book every time! Students may sometimes read comic books, kids' magazines, travel brochures, kid-friendly recipes, instructions for putting something together, etc.
- Give them the opportunity to talk about what they're thinking! Ask them about what they're reading, but don't make it feel like they're giving a report: *So what did you choose to read today? What did you find interesting about it? What do you think will happen next?* (Questions will vary with the child's age and what they're reading.)
- Some students seem more drawn to reading for fun than others. If your children aren't as interested in reading, try reading aloud to them or with them – no matter how old they are! Let them choose the book or share a book with them that you enjoyed reading at their age or even get two copies of the same book and read and discuss it together.

We value the partnership we have with families to develop lifelong readers and learners! I am here to help!

Ms. Goodman, Librarian