



Sternberger Elementary's Schoolwide Reading Program 2019-2020

- Program Date: September 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 (for PreK: October 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020)
- Student Goal: For each student to read (or be read to) AT LEAST 30 minutes a day for at least 20 days out of each month.
- School Goal: For all students to read 30 minutes a day for at least 20 days out of each month.
- The focus is to encourage student reading outside the regular school day. Some independent reading time within the school day will be counted, though, to support GCS balanced literacy initiatives.

How Does It Work?

- For grades PreK-2, students will be expected to read at least 20 minutes at home. Because independent reading time (book-browsing or read-aloud for younger students) is built into the school day, for each day that PreK-2 students read, record, and have a parent/guardian initial their 20 minutes of out-of-school reading on their reading log, 10 minutes of in-school reading time will be added to their daily reading total. (20 minutes out-of-school + 10 minutes in-school = 30 minutes of reading time)
- Third, 4th, and 5th graders will follow the ARC initiative guidelines and instructions for counting and recording time read (steps).

Requirements for Grades PreK-5:

- Students in grades PreK-2 will read at home (or be read to) for at least **20 minutes** every night for 20 nights out of each month, including months with winter or spring breaks.
- Students in 3rd - 5th grades will read outside of school at least **30 minutes** every night.
- For PreK-2: Extra minutes read for the month should be entered at the top of the reading log.
- All parts of the student reading log must be filled out for students to receive credit. Parent/guardian must initial/sign to verify student's reading.
- 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 so our information can be submitted by the district deadline.)
- 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 or at the end of the year.**
- Students' homework grades are 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 and a certificate during the school year.

- K-2 students can earn a free book if they meet their minimum monthly goal of **30 minutes** of reading time for 20 days every month from September through December (PreK: October through December). PreK-2 students can also earn a free book if they meet their minimum monthly goal of **30 minutes** of reading time for 20 days every month from January through April. PreK-2 students who meet their goal every month from September through April will receive a certificate in May.
- Third, 4th, and 5th graders can earn a free book if they meet their September through December step goal of **350 steps**. They can also earn a free book if they meet their cumulative step goal of **650 steps** by the end of April. They can earn a certificate by meeting their cumulative step goal of **725 steps** by the end of May.

Ms. Goodman

Librarian

Why Emphasize Reading Outside of School?

We encourage students to read 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 also.

Suggestions

- Emphasize the reading and not the time. We have a minimum time 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.