

## Welcome to our Accelerated Reader program!

IRC students from elementary through high school are involved in this year-round reading program. During the registration process, your child has taken a **Star Reader** test that measures his contextual vocabulary comprehension. The Star Reader program assists us in assigning a **Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)**, which is simply a reading range that will help to challenge, but not overwhelm, your child. Your **Star Reader Parent Report** will help to define various terms and will identify your child's individual **ZPD**.

Throughout the summer, students select books from the various middle and high school Accelerated Reader (AR) lists posted on the MSHS Library's page of the school's website (ircs.org). Book choices are made based on each student's ZPD. In addition to authors' names and titles, book levels (ATOS) are noted to aid students in selecting books within their personal ZPD.

Students earn points by testing over the books they read. Beside each ATOS book level is a number indicating the maximum points that could possibly be earned by successfully testing over that book. For example, a student may read a 16-point book, and then in testing he answers eight out of ten questions correctly. The student would accumulate 12.8 points from his test over that book.

Point goals are set for various grade levels and classes. Over the summer, students accumulate points through their reading and testing. The point requirements vary by grade level.

***Read based on the grade level you will enter in the Fall of this year.***

6th grade: 15 points

7th grade: 16 points

8th grade: 18 points

High School Non-Honors classes: 20 points

High School Honors classes & DC Comp I : 23 points\*

(\* Honors students must select one of their books from the "HS Classics" list—found on the MSHS Library's web page—and must pass that test with a 70% or better.)

**New Student Enrollment Dates** determine the percentage of points your student is expected to earn by the start of the new school year.

- Students enrolling prior to July 22<sup>nd</sup> are expected to meet the **full** summer point requirement by Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for HS or by Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> for MS.
- Students enrolling between July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be expected to have met at least **half** of the summer point requirement by Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for HS or by Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> for MS.
- Students enrolling after August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be expected to have met **half** of the summer point requirement by Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> (same date for both MS and HS).

*How do we start our Summer AR?*

1 – Identify your child's ZPD as listed on the top right portion of his Star Reader Parent Report.

2 – Log on to the MSHS Library page on the school's website (ircs.org) and select a book with an ATOS level within his ZPD.

3 – Read the book.

We recommend keeping some type of a reading journal by chapter—list characters involved in the chapter, write a sentence summing up the main action of the chapter, and a sentence suggesting why that action is important to advance the plot of the book. Reading journals are great review tools before testing.

4 – Test over the book.

The MSHS Library will be open for AR testing from **11-1:00 and 5-7:00** on the following

**Wednesdays** throughout the summer: **June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Will you be away over those dates?** No worries. Students will also be able to wrap up their Summer AR Testing within the first few days of the new school year.

*Grading*

Students receive two single-weighted test grades for Summer AR during the first marking period. One grade is based on testing accuracy and the other is based on meeting their point goal.

Thank you for encouraging your student as he embarks on his Summer AR program! We look forward to working with you to help him reach his potential as a reader.