ACCELERATED READER
HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH AR IN 7TH GRADE

Reading is a skill and, as with every skill, it requires not just instruction but practice. Reading practice serves a number of purposes. It enables students to apply the skills and strategies taught in class. It gives teachers opportunities to check student learning and identify weaknesses. Moreover, it draws students into the world of "real" reading—a world in which people learn from and enjoy books. Practice does not automatically lead to growth, however. To be effective, practice must have certain attributes: It must be at the right level of difficulty, cover a sufficient amount of time, be guided by the instructor, and be enjoyable enough to sustain. *Accelerated Reader* is a computer based reading program from Renaissance Learning (www.renlearn.com) that monitors how well students comprehend books read at or above their reading level. Each time a student has completed an AR book he or she will take a computer based quiz on the book in order to receive AR points. The purpose of Accelerated Reader is to enable powerful practice. It does this by:

- *Providing data that helps teachers monitor and personalize reading practice.*
- *Encouraging substantial amounts of practice, according to guidelines based on research findings.*
- *Making practice fun for students by facilitating successful encounters with text.*

The AR process begins with students taking the STAR Reading assessment. This 34-question test will be administered quarterly. The STAR test provides a variety of data including a student's Instructional Reading Level (IRL) and Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) which will be used to guide students into selecting AR books in which they will have success reading, comprehending, and taking AR tests. Reports indicating a student's progress will be sent home after the first and fourth STAR administrations. AR will be approximately 10% of a student's quarterly grade. It will be based on each student's individual reading goals determined by the STAR Assessment. The AR grade will be determined using the following formula:

- *Average Percent Correct on AR Tests= 50% of the total AR Grade*
- *Total Points Earned= 33% of the total AR Grade*
- *Bookmarks, Reading Log Completion, and Status of the Class, etc. = 17% of the total AR Grade*

We will go to the Library Media Center on a weekly basis to allow students access to checking out and renewing books for AR. At that time, a *Status of the Class* will be conducted. This will be a quick check conducted by the teacher to get an indication of what type of book a student is reading and how far he/she is progressing. Students will also be required to complete a *Reading Log* for all AR books read. This log will be kept in the language art's notebook and will track book titles, levels, and pages read throughout a grading period. Further, bookmarks will also be required for each third of each book read. These bookmarks must be completed and submitted to Miss Fausnight before an AR test can be taken. The third bookmark requires a parent signature. All three bookmarks must be filled out and signed BEFORE a student takes an AR test and will be turned in to the language art's teacher upon the completion of a test. Students will NOT receive credit for AR tests taken without the accompanying completed and signed bookmarks. If an AR test is taken outside of the language arts classroom, a teacher's signature from the classroom in which the test was taken is also required. Finally, books read as part of a class assignment will not count towards a student's quarterly AR grade. If a student wants to read a book already in movie form (*Harry Potter, Holes, The Lightening Thief,* etc), permission must be given by the language arts teacher before the book is read.

"No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance."
~Confucius