

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

To keep you informed on your child's progress thus far in seventh grade, I am sending home two reports outlining information related to the *Accelerated Reader* (AR) program and the *STAR Reading Assessment*. As you know from previous correspondences, AR is a requirement in seventh grade and contributes to approximately 10% of a student's grade each quarter. In the past, it had been difficult for parents to stay on top of AR progress and growth. However, since moving to the online version of the AR program, you now can check how your child is doing with independent reading whenever you choose with *Renaissance Home Connect*. Attached to this letter is the log in information to allow you to access this information at your convenience.

Additionally, my seventh graders have just taken the *STAR Reading Assessment*. The assessment created by *Accelerated Reader* gives individual data on your child's reading levels at this point in seventh grade. The *STAR Reading* scores represent how students perform on this test compared with the performances of a nationally representative sample of students. The scores on the *STAR* test present a snapshot of achievement at a specific point in time. As with any test, it is important to remember that many factors can affect a student's test scores. It is my goal for students to be more successful at the end of the year than at the time of first *STAR* administration. The attached report outlines where your child falls among the aforementioned group. It details your child's grade equivalent, instructional reading level, and zone of proximal development (ZPD). As your child brings home books to read for school or recreation, he or she will be best served selecting those that are within his or her reading level. If in reading this report you see that your child is below where you would like, encouraging more independent reading at home with age appropriate, high interest reading materials will help them make gains. Doing just 20 minutes of additional reading per night will help increase the ZPD over the course of a nine week period.

I hope you find this information useful. To ensure that you have received this letter, please sign the attached parent signature slip. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail.

Regards,

*Miss Melissa Fausnight*

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