



MENDENHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL
1701 EL PADRO DRIVE
LIVERMORE, CA 94550
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Accelerated Reading Informational Letter - Seventh Grade Core

Research shows that the ability to read independently for 30 minutes or more is a gateway skill for success in high school, college, and later life. This year, 7th grade core classes will use Accelerated Reader to help students develop their independent reading habits. Students will have some time in class to read, but 20-30 minutes of daily reading at home will also be necessary. AR will be graded as no more than 20% of the ELA class grade.

Setting Goals

Accelerated Reading is a computer-based system that allows each student to set and meet individual goals. Students take a baseline test, which recommends a reading level. Using information from the test plus knowledge of their own comfort level with reading, students set a goal, which parents and teachers then approve or modify. Students choose and read books that interest them and that are appropriate for their own reading level. While goals will vary from student to student, all students are expected to improve, even if they are already strong readers. Student grades depend on meeting individual reading goals, reading with comprehension, improving the baseline test score, and participating appropriately in the process.

Selecting A Book

AR books are easily available. School library books and most classroom books are also labeled with the reading level and the point value. The Mendenhall library website includes a link to the AR Bookfinder, allowing students to check for reading level and point value selecting a book. You may also wish to bookmark this link (www.arbookfind.com) on your home computers. The AR system has hundreds of thousands of books; students will have a wide variety of selection.

Adult Approvals

Students need two approvals for each book: teacher and parent. The teacher will check the reading level of the book and make sure the book is useful for meeting the student's goals. The parent will check for appropriate reading content. Both teacher and parent must sign the reading log. *Books must come to class or the teacher cannot approve them.*

Quizzes

AR quizzes are a reliable gauge of student comprehension, and these scores will help determine grades. A 100% score gives a student all of the points for the book; a 90% score earns 90% of the points, and so on. Scores of 60% or below earn 0 points. Students may take quizzes during classroom independent reading time, or in the Library at lunch, and before or after school.

Monitoring Progress, Grading, and Due Dates

Please check in with your student weekly to see that they are working toward their goal. Halfway through the trimester half of their AR points are due and will be factored into their grade. A student reaching 50% of their goal will earn 50 points and so on.

The final AR grade is valued at 100 points and is due at the end of the trimester. A student reaching their personal AR goal will earn 100% or 100 points. A student reaching 80% of their goal will earn 80 points and so on.

Students may check their progress online from any web-based computer. In addition, they must keep and use the attached reading log. Teachers will run reports for grading purposes at progress report time and for trimester grades. At the end of each trimester, students total their points and turn in the log.

Honors Differentiation

Honors students are expected to reach 70 points in AR each trimester in order to earn 100% for their AR reading grade. If 70 points is not reached, students will receive credit based on the percentage of points earned.

	<i>Last Day to Approve Books</i>	<i>Halfway AR Deadline</i>	<i>Reading Logs/AR</i>
Trimester 1	Oct. 30, 2019	Sept. 25, 2019	November 6, 2019
Trimester 2	Feb. 19, 2020	January 8, 2020	Feb. 25, 2020
Trimester 3	May 27, 2020	April 15 2020	June 2, 2020

Your signature verifies that you are aware of the long-term independent reading assignment due each quarter. Please sign and return this page to class.

Sincerely,

Seventh Grade Core

Student's name (print) _____

Student Signature

Period _____

Parent's Signature

Date _____