



Dear Parents:

Allen Park Elementary School uses the **Reading Renaissance** reading program at all grade levels. This program is being used by tens of thousands of schools internationally and its tremendous success is well-documented. It is a research-based program combining technology (Accelerated Reader), motivation, and individualized instruction which supports a regimen of extensive in-school reading practice. The program is literature based: students read "real" books, both fiction and non-fiction. Since we began using this program in 1998, our library circulation has increased from 3,700 books checked out during the school year to 136,033 books checked out during 2008-09!!!!!!

Here's a brief overview of how the program works.

#1 A reading range (ZPD range) is determined for each student based on the S.T.A.R. Reading Test and classroom reading performance. The books within each student's reading range will challenge, but not frustrate the student. They will be neither too easy, nor too difficult.

#2 The teacher meets individually with each student to set goals and develop an individualized reading plan. The student reads books within his/her reading range and takes Accelerated Reader quizzes on those books. The teacher closely monitors the student's performance on the quizzes and adjusts the reading range accordingly. As students progress in reading, their reading ranges increase and they are able to read books at higher reading levels. We expect all students to make at least a year's growth in reading, but *the ultimate goals are to expose our students to a rich and diverse range of literature covering many genres and to nurture the love of reading.* Therefore, teachers will ensure that students enrich and expand their literature choices at each reading level while gradually increasing reading levels. We want our students to read well as well as to be "well read".

While the program does not consider students who average 85% on AR quizzes to be "at risk", research has demonstrated that maximum reading growth occurs when students maintain a 90-100% average percent correct.

Maintaining a 90-100% average on AR quizzes is the goal for all of our students.

#3 In addition to the goal of averaging 85% or higher on AR quizzes, students are also working toward certification, point and book level goals. Students who reach their goals have their names announced on WAPE-TV (our televised morning news program), receive certificates, chain necklaces with tags reflecting points and certification levels, and a visit from the "band". We also have quarterly celebrations for students who have met their nine-week goals and a Millionaire's Club for students reading one million words or more. We celebrate the reading successes of our students every day at Allen Park!

#4 Accelerated Reader generates many reports to help teachers monitor student progress. Weekly progress reports and quarterly report cards will reflect your child's reading performance.

A child who loves to read will not only do well in English and Language Arts courses, but will, in fact, excel in every area of schoolwork and life. Support and celebrate your child's reading. Read to and with your child. Talk about what you have read together and share what you are reading with your child. The love of reading is one of the most important gifts you can give your child.

The Allen Park Staff