



READ TO THE STARS

**Hollywood School
Independent Reading Program
2009-2010**

As a part of a balanced literacy program, all children are encouraged to practice reading independently a portion of each day. We at Hollywood School strongly believe this, and we will therefore continue to implement a program to promote independent reading outside of school. This year's independent reading program is called "Read to the Stars," to align with our school-wide stars theme.

This independent reading practice increases reading competence by building upon two important reading components: reading fluency (the rate at which one can read), and vocabulary. Children can also increase their knowledge base and develop the love and habit of reading each day. Just as athletes condition themselves for their sport, good readers become this way by reading each and every day.

It is important that children read materials they have selected themselves. The material must be at their independent reading level, meaning that they must be able to read >90% of the words without assistance and have an understanding of what has been read. In addition, children must read materials that have relevance to them. Whether it be a picture book, chapter book, newspaper, magazine, joke book, non-fiction book, biography, or poetry anthology, it is important that children read what is of interest to them. Fortunately, all of our students are curious about their world, so finding materials should not be a problem.

We need you to help us in our mission to promote literacy. We ask that you make sure that your child reads his/her expected number of minutes each week. Students are encouraged to read each and every day. However, we understand that busy schedules may not always allow for this. Therefore, we will be calculating the total number of minutes read on a weekly basis, allowing students to "catch-up" in the event that they miss a day of reading. Students are strongly encouraged to read the following number of minutes per day/week:

Kindergarten – 15 minutes per day / 75 minutes per week
1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade – 20 minutes per day / 100 minutes per week
4th and 5th grade – 30 minutes per day / 150 minutes per week

Every Monday, your child will receive a reading log. On this log, students need to set a reading goal for the week. At the end of the week, students need to record their total minutes read for the week. Parents and students should then sign this form to verify the minutes read. It is important to record the actual number of minutes read. Don't be afraid to record less than the number expected – you can always improve. Be proud of any extra minute spent – that's a bonus! We follow the honor system and trust that students are truthful in recording the actual number of minutes read. This form will then be returned to school the following Monday.

Our journey to read to the stars will begin on Monday, September 28th. The first weekly reading log will be sent home on this day, and it will be due the following Monday. Our goal is to build a community of readers and challenge ourselves to read to the stars! Our goal this year is to read 500,000+ minutes at Hollywood School. Meeting this goal will require a great deal of effort and commitment from all – children, teachers, and parents. Our reading progress will be monitored on the bulletin board outside of the office. Be sure to look at this board to see our progress toward reading to the stars! We believe we can do it!

Sincerely,

Your Child's Classroom Teacher and the Hollywood Faculty