

Accelerated Reader Program

Here are some questions that parents have been asking about the program

Dear Parents,

Attached is the Oraze Elementary Accelerated Reader Parent Report. It is important to understand that this test score provides only one picture of how your child is doing in school. Each Student was given a bookmark with a reading range on it so that they can easily identify books within there reading range. The bookmark is a tool so that the student will read books within that range. Students will be encouraged to check out two to three books and take at least two Accelerated Reader Tests per week.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a program that is based on children reading library books and then answering questions about what they have read. That is the simple answer. The more complex answer is that the program also levels the books so that students can choose books that are appropriate to their reading level. The program, because it is based on library books, tends to allow students to choose books that interest them.

My child talks about "points," what are points?

Each book in the program is worth a set number of points based on the grade level of the book, the length, and the complexity of the material. Books in our library range from .5 to 30+ points. Point values and grade levels for each book can be found on the spine of the book.

How do you get the points?

Once a child reads a book they can go to any computer in the school, log-on to their personal account, and take a quiz for that book. Quizzes are 5 to 10 questions about what they have read. If a child gets more than 70% of the questions correct, they are awarded points. Points are tabulated and stored by the computer in each child's individual account. I will run a point report every Friday. This will let the student know how many points they have. You can also monitor your child's progress on Home Connect. Incentives will be awarded at the beginning of the next month for the previous month's points.

You mean if my child does not do well on the quiz they will not get points, but they read the book, shouldn't they get something?

Reading comprehension is the goal. If a child "reads" a book but can't answer 10 questions about the book with 70% accuracy did they really understand the book? When a child fails a quiz it is usually because of one of two reasons; 1. The book was too hard for them, or 2. They "read" the book but did not take the time to understand the book. Teachers who find students who are consistently failing quizzes work with the students to choose other books or work on their comprehension.

Can a child re-take a quiz for a book?

No, once a child has taken a quiz the computer blocks the child from re-taking that quiz. It is very important that a child read a book carefully and completely prior to taking a quiz. If a child fails a quiz and **their teacher** feels they would benefit re-taking the quiz, the **teacher may request** that Mrs. Moorhead, our librarian, reset the quiz's availability to the student.

Do some teachers require their students read a "minimum" number of points per quarter?

Yes, some teachers are requiring every student to read and pass quizzes for a minimum number of points per quarter. Some are also using points as a portion of students' reading grade. Minimum point levels are not unreasonable and are achievable if a student reads consistently throughout the quarter. There is an incentive program available for students to encourage participation. That program can be found on another page of this packet. Again, the incentive point values are achievable for any student who wishes to pursue them.

If you have additional questions about the program please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Moorhead.