

# Accelerated Reader & Renaissance Home Connect

September 2, 2014

Greetings Grizzly Families,

I have provided the following information to become more familiar with Accelerated Reader (AR) and Renaissance Home Connect. Please take a moment to read through my letter below and the attached STAR Reading report.

**Introducing You to Accelerated Reader.** The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the Accelerated Reader program, in which all students at SCMS participate. This is a great program using computerized quizzes to help students and teachers alike determine how well students understand what they read and encourage reading growth.

**Determining Reading Grade Equivalents.** If your student attended Spencer County Public Schools last year you may remember the AR program. Students take a computerized test called STAR Reading during language arts class to determine their reading levels, or grade equivalent (GE) score. This works by giving the student a number that represents his or her reading level. For example, a student who has a GE score of 7.8 reads at the level of a seventh grader in their eighth month of school.

**Setting AR Point & Quiz Goals.** A point goal is set for each student to reach every 9 week grading period based on the reading grade equivalent and reading 30 minutes each night. This, along with the percentage your student gets correct on quizzes, determines the AR grades for the 9 weeks. At the end of the 9 week grading period students will have two test grades for AR- 1) The percent of AR points met out of their goal and 2) AR quiz average.

**Communicating Progress.** I send home Accelerated Reader progress notes throughout the grading periods. The notes update students and parents on the number of points earned and the AR quiz average. Students are required to show you the update and receive a parent signature in their agenda for homework points. Please keep your eyes out for this helpful communication tool!

You may also keep tabs on your child's progress through Renaissance Home Connect. I encourage you and your child to monitor progress and set goals throughout the grading period. Your child already has a username and password that will allow you to gain access to the site.

**Checking Out Library Books.** Each book at the SMCS library is labeled with its reading level and points. Each book is worth a different number of points, based on its length, content, and vocabulary. To help students easily choose books in the library, they are labeled with a colored sticker indicating the book's reading level. The colors represent different levels. I am sharing these with the hope you will help me monitor your child to ensure he or she is reading books near his or her reading level. These colors are listed below. If you pick up a book outside of the school library, you may visit ARBookFind.com to check reading levels and points of any book.



Blue: 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade level  
Green: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade level  
Yellow: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade level  
Orange: 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level  
Purple: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade level  
Pink: 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade level

Thanks,

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