

# **Accelerated Reader**

## **What is Accelerated Reader?**

Accelerated Reader is a program adopted by the district to help tally how many books the students are reading and comprehending. Since the school recognizes students for their reading achievements based on how many AR points they accumulate, I encourage them to use AR to test after everything we read. Even read alouds and stories from our reading curriculum can be found on AR.

## **Can my child take AR tests at home?**

Absolutely! In fact, your child can take AR tests at home on the bedtime stories that were read TO him/her!

## **What is a STAR test?**

STAR is the test administered within AR to help determine your child's reading level. The test takes about 15 minutes to complete and is administered once per quarter. While book tests can be taken at home, STAR tests cannot.

## **How are points earned on AR?**

AR determines the value of a book (how many points it's worth) by the difficulty of the text and the length of the book. Longer books with harder words are worth more than shorter books that are easier to read. Some books count for only 0.5 points, while others can be worth 13 points. Some kids want to skip the 0.5 books and go straight for the thicker chapter books, but this proves detrimental in the end. In the amount of time it takes them to struggle through the chapter book, they could have accumulated more points reading on level. Beyond that, no points are awarded at all if they don't get a 70% or better on the quiz and this is hard to do when you don't comprehend the large words you are trying to decode.

Beginning in 2nd grade, all books are worth double their point values. So if AR says your child has 26 points, SHES records that as 52 points. There is a wall near the entrance to the kindergarten hallway where students can monitor their progress. I love watching my 2nd graders' paw prints move down the wall!

## **How does my child get a Star Reader shirt?**

Star Reader shirts are awarded once a student reaches 100 AR points in a year. It's not easy to do, but some kiddos have done it every year since Kindergarten.