

Dear Parents,

Fourth graders are required to read 15 **minutes** each night, *Monday through Thursday*. They need to read one book at a time as opposed to starting and stopping a variety of books each week. I recommend that once a week, they spend part of their reading time (at least **ten minutes**) **reading aloud** to you so they can practice oral fluency.

Students may choose books from the school library, classroom library, or home, as long as it's their reading level and they haven't read the book before. Please have them bring in any book from home so I can see it and give it an OK (I almost always will OK books from home). I do want the students to read books from different genres, however, within that genre, they can choose any book. I have given them a reading genre checklist. I'll initial one genre each time they select a new book. This way they aren't reading the same types of books all the time. Once all the genres have been initialed, they can read books of any genre for the remainder of the year.

The books are kept in their Reading Bag (RB), which is a large Ziploc bag. This helps to minimize damage. Your child may keep the reading bag at home, as long as they return the reading log on Fridays (or the last day of the school week). The RB contains a pencil, their book, their reading log, and the genre checklist taped to the outside of the bag.

Please encourage your child to take good care of the books. We discussed this in class: using a real bookmark instead of dog-earring the pages (folding them down), not placing an open book upside down (to hold their place), not folding back paperback covers and pages while reading, and not eating or drinking while reading.

A new **reading log** will go home each Monday (or the first day of the week if Monday is off) and are **due Fridays** (exceptions being when we don't have school on Friday). They need to come to you *daily* so you can sign their log after they finish reading, not all at once, right before it's due. The grade will be based on the number of days read divided by the total days required to read, which is usually four, but not always (ex: 3 days read out of 4 is a 75%).

Thank you for your help with this and please let me know if you have any questions.

Miss Liz Crachi