

Dear Families,

Reading well is a component of becoming a lifelong learner and a lover of knowledge. To facilitate that love, your fourth graders are responsible for 20 minutes of reading 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. They need to have two books to read at all times so if they finish one, they can begin another.

I believe that students will learn to enjoy reading if they are allowed, at least half of the time or more, to choose their books. Accordingly, they will shop for books in Miss Crachi's classroom library and in the school library. The selections that they make should be "just right" for them, meaning the reading level should be neither too easy nor too hard. If they find five words per page that they do not know, this may indicate that the book is not an appropriate selection for now. Books below their reading level are fine for the beginning of the year. They will read higher-level books as the year goes on and as they become more confident.

The books are to be kept in their Book Baggie "BB," which is a large Ziplock bag. This helps to minimize damage, since the books need to go home and come back ***every day***. Please also encourage them to take good care of the books, which includes using a real bookmark or Post-it note instead of dog-earing the pages, not placing an open book upside down, not folding back paperback covers and pages while reading and refraining from eating or drinking while reading.

Also in their BB will be their reading log, a pencil, and a pen. The pencil is for them to record their reading. The pen is for you to use to sign the log. These reading logs need to come to you ***daily*** so that you can sign their log after they've finished reading. I've attached a log to this letter. Please save this in case your scholars forget/lose theirs on any given week.

Once a week, your child should spend part of his/her reading time (at least 20 minutes) reading aloud to you. Please enjoy this time to connect with your child! Grab a cozy spot and enjoy the precious time together. Feel free to read to them too as part of the requirement. Most children, even those who think they are too old, secretly love being read to. 😊

On Monday and Wednesday nights, your child will have an **assignment** regarding what he/she is reading. The questions will be on the back of the reading log and students will answer the questions on that sheet. They are welcome to complete both assignments before they are due, especially if Wednesday nights are hectic.

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

In His Name,

Mrs. Ritter

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