

# The Accelerated Reading Program - AR

**The Program:** How do we become better readers? We become better readers the same way we improve at other skills: we practice! Accelerated Reader (AR) is a program that ensures reading success for every child by encouraging students to read independently at a reading level that is appropriate for them. It provides not only the time for reading practice, but also the motivation to want to read.

**The Process:** Students take the S.T.A.R. test to determine their reading level "zone" (ZPD). This is a comfortable independent reading level that also provides enough challenge for maximum growth. Students check out books that are in their "zone". Teachers provide 30 to 60 minutes of independent reading time each day. During this time in the classroom, teachers monitor for success and progress through daily reading logs and conversation with each student. Students have opportunities to share about books that they have enjoyed. Students take a computerized quiz on the books they read. They receive instant feedback on comprehension and are awarded points based on their score and the level of the book. Their score and points are printed on a T.O.P.S. report, which students share with their teacher and parents. Teachers monitor students' quiz scores. Consistent scores below 85% may indicate reading skills that need to be taught or that a student may need to change their "zone". Consistent scores above 92% may indicate that a student is ready to go to the next higher "zone". Students accumulate points as they work towards individual, class and school goals.

**Certification Levels:** Students may achieve certification based on reading points, test scores, and book levels. The criteria for each of the certificated levels are as follows:

1. Ready Reader: accumulate 5 points through any combination of Read To or Read With
2. Independent Reader: read 3 books independently at 1.2 or higher, pass quizzes at 80% or better, and accumulate 10 points
3. Rising Reader: read 3 books independently at 1.6 or higher, pass quizzes at 80% or better, and accumulate 10 points
4. Super Reader: read 3 books at 2.0 or higher worth at least 1 point each, pass quizzes at 80% or better (Students may continue at this level.)
5. Advanced Reader: read 3 books at 3.0 or higher worth at least 2 points each, pass quizzes at 80% or better (Students may continue at this level.)
6. Star Reader: read 3 books at Level 4.0 or higher worth at least 4 points each, pass quizzes at 80% or better
7. Classic Reader: read 3 books at Level 6.0 or higher at least 7 points each, pass quizzes at 80% or better