



Belle Creek Charter School Accelerated Reader



Dear BCCS MS Parent:

We have adopted the Accelerated Reader program as part of our comprehensive literacy program here at BCCS. The only way to become really good at understanding what we read is through practice. Reading is a skill; so just like an athlete, if we have a good coach who teaches us 'how'; it is up to us to practice to perfect that skill. The only way to get better at reading is to ... **READ!**

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a program used to motivate students to increase their reading & vocabulary comprehension and guide them to independent reading. AR is the world's most popular reading program; used in nearly 60,000 schools. There is a proven link between strong reading skills and academic success – great readers make great students! This compliments the school's goal of having each BCCS student read independently at least 30 minutes per day at home.

Online Program

With the AR Online web-based program, our students are no longer limited to read only the volumes in our library to participate. Students not only have access to over 100,000 books available through our school library, but the public library, home library & book store as well. You may check for AR test availability at www.arbookfind.com.

Home Connect

We are also pleased to announce a partnership with AR Renaissance Place, called Home Connect. This is a web-based program that allows you to track reading progress in AR from home or anywhere your computer goes. (Free internet access & e-mail is available on parent computers in the school lobby.)

How does AR work?

1. Each student is tested & assigned a reading range & point goal
2. Students then choose an AR book based on their interest and reading level.
3. When they are finished reading the book, they write a "short book summary" as outlined by their Reading teacher; the teacher or librarian then reviews the summary.
4. The student takes the AR test to assess comprehension.
5. The student earns points for mastering the material on the test. They earn full points by answering all test questions correctly. (Students who average at least an 80% on tests taken are considered to understand what they read at an average level.)
6. A TOPS report is posted online at HomeConnect each week a student takes an AR test.

What makes it FUN?

We strongly support the AR reading program. It's a great way to encourage reading and have a positive, fun experience. Students love enjoying reading and are motivated to reach personal goals. Incentives vary to include: Smencils, Non-Uniform Days, Sonic Drinks & Belle Bucks for achieving point goals; with different levels of certification; ranging from Independent to Honors reader.

How can I help my child?

1. Promote reading at home: encourage them to read; read to them, let them see you reading & encourage them to carry their book wherever they go – so they are always ready to read!
2. Ask about the current book they are reading and their point goals. Congratulate them when they reach their goal. Students can track their progress by using the point chart posted in their classroom.
3. Donate AR books from our book fairs to the library so we can continue to expand our offerings for the students.
4. **Cheer on your child and start growing a reader today!**

