

Welcome to the Saints Accelerated Reader Program
2011 - 2012
First Grade

St. Bonaventure School uses Renaissance Learning (www.renlearn.com) software applications for Accelerated Reader. Your child is tested four times a year for their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) using STAR Reader Diagnostic software. This ZPD is used to help the student select books at a successful reading level. The ZPD's are held on file in the library; you may check on your student's ZPD at any time. This computerized reading enrichment program is individualized, allowing each student to move at his or her own pace and level of ability. We value this program and its success rate so much that the Accelerated Reader program is required school wide and is incorporated into the student's reading grade. Points required for each grade are as follows:

- Grade 1- 10 points (1 point the 1st trimester, 3 points the 2nd trimester and 6 points the 3rd trimester)
 - Grade 2 – 15 points (5 points a trimester)
 - Grade 3 – 24 points (8 points a trimester)
 - Grade 4 – 27 points (9 points a trimester)
 - Grade 5 – 33 points (11 points a trimester)
 - Grade 6 – 36 points (12 points a trimester)
 - Grade 7 – 48 points (16 points a trimester)
 - Grade 8 – 54 points (18 points a trimester)
- Trimester Dates: November 23rd, March 9th and June 15th

As parents, you can support this program by helping your child select books from the Accelerated Reader book list. You may obtain the list on the school web site, www.stbonaventureschool.org The Accelerated Reader list can be viewed or printed by author, title, or reading level range (ZPD range). The Accelerated Reader Honor Code and prize information is posted in the students section of the Web site.

Forms

Please return the Honor Code by October 24, 2011 or the student will not be allowed to take Accelerated Reader quizzes or ZPD testing until the form is received.

Goal

The goal of this program is to increase your child's reading comprehension and reading level. Their growth is reflected in their ZPD range. Your student will become a better reader, which will help them become a better student.

Reading Logs

Each student will have a reading log stapled to his or her take home folder. The student must read 15 minutes each night. An Accelerated Reader book must be read 3 times independently (can read to you), logged on the reading log and signed by the parent before a quiz may be taken in the classroom. If this procedure is not followed the student will not be allowed to take a quiz. All 1st grade students must take quizzes in the classroom only (no exceptions).

Audio Quizzes

We have voice activated quizzes, in the 1.0 to 2.9 reading level range, available for the students. Go to the School Web site, click on the Accelerated Reader button, enter "voice" into the search field and click on the "Search" button. You will get a printable list of all Voice quizzes available.

Helpful Points

Here are some pointers on how to help your child be successful:

- ❖ Please make absolutely sure that your child reads his or her book three times independently. If he or she needs a lot of help with words in the book, he/she will struggle to read and correctly answer the quiz questions.
- ❖ Start with books that are at the lower end of your child's ZPD range, or even a bit below. This will build your child's confidence level and encourage him or her to take more quizzes.
- ❖ Please make sure your child knows when to sign-up for an Accelerated Reader quiz.
- ❖ Start with short and simple books. A chapter book is not the place to start.
- ❖ Avoid the Dr. Seuss books – the nonsense rhyming words may be fun to read, but they can be confusing on a quiz.

Welcome to the Saints Accelerated Reader Program
2011 - 2012
First Grade

Helpful Points (continued)

- ❖ We don't want to push the students too hard. If your child is not ready for a quiz, please do not feel compelled to have him or her take a quiz.
- ❖ Go to the Renaissance Learning (www.renlearn.com) Web site to view and take sample quizzes.

Quizzes and Earned Points

The Accelerated Reader quiz assesses the reader's comprehension. Points your child earns are based on the point value of the book and the score on the quiz. For example, if your child gets 100% on the test for a **.5 point** book, your child earns .5 point. If the test score is 80% (missing one question) your child earns **.4 point**. The Accelerated Reader program keeps track of the student's performance. A report listing all books and points received will be sent home on a monthly basis.

Prizes and Incentives

We have planned special prizes to encourage students to read and participate in the Accelerated Reader program. A copy of the prizes for first graders is included in this packet.

Parents

Parents are key motivators and essential for the success of this program. Please encourage your child to read, and stay in touch with your child's progress and this exciting program. Together, we can get our children to enjoy reading and become life-long learners, one of the School-Wide Learning Expectations.

Accelerated Reader quizzes can only be taken once per book, during your child's time at St. Bonaventure School. Students will be helped with the computer, but will not be helped with answering quiz questions.

Parents and students can now view goals, results of the last quiz taken and overall progress using the new Home Connect™ feature, an information sheet is included in this packet.

Library

Accelerated Reader books can be found at the Huntington Beach libraries. The classrooms also have a checkout system in place for the students. Our school library is for the students; parents may not check out books.

Ice Cream Parties

To attend the trimester Ice Cream Parties a First Grader must have:

- 1 point (1st Trimester)
- 5 points (2nd Trimester)
- 10 points (3rd Trimester)

The more your child reads the better reader they will become.
Reading is a great way to spend some quality time with your child.
Happy Reading to your family!

