



The Importance of Reading



Numerous research articles have documented the fact that schools which require regular and meaningful homework and reading assignments raise the academic performance of their students. Students who read well will have a much easier time with their studies, both in terms of the speed of doing assignments and in terms of the comprehension level in accomplishing the work.



Parents have an instrumental part in supporting staff members in forming good reading skills, which are the foundation of the majority of academic learning. We encourage each parent to monitor his/her child in doing some independent reading for a minimum of 20-30 minutes every day and to take every occasion to guide the student in doing further outside reading and in thinking critically about what they have read. In order to encourage students to become life-long readers, the students, with parental guidance, should select the type of reading that interests them. Whether it be fiction or non-fiction, mysteries or sports, science fiction or race cars, there are books or magazines that cater to a child's interest. Start with those, and gradually suggest a variety of new and different topics to broaden the child's knowledge and interests.



If your child reads for enjoyment a minimum of 20 minutes each day, that amounts to 140 minutes per week and about 600 minutes per month. If your child reads 20 minutes per day from the beginning of January until the last day of school, that will total almost 3,300 minutes! If your child continues to read during the summer, he/she will probably be much more ready for the following school year than those who do not read.



Families may enjoy setting aside a family reading time, during which all family members stop and read together quietly for 30 minutes. If parents set a good example, the children will see that it is an important family value, and will probably become "addicted" to this great life-long habit. Give it a try, and help your child reap the rewards!

