

August 31, 2015



We are pleased to tell you about a proven reading program that your child is participating in at LPCS. Accelerated Reader is a computerized progress monitoring assessment that provides reliable and valid feedback on comprehension of books and other materials that students have read.

### **Quick facts about AR:**

1. The student reads a book selection in their AR level
2. AR books all have a point value assigned to them based on the length of the book (word count) and difficulty of the text (book level). Students should be reading AR books within their AR level. Students may only quiz on a particular book once during their entire time at LPCS.
3. The student takes an AR quiz on a computer, which assesses the student's comprehension of key elements of the book's content. AR immediately scores the quizzes, manages all record-keeping tasks, and generates detailed reports describing student performance and student progress toward goals. The grade on the quiz determines how many of the points possible they have earned. Assigned point goals will count as 10% of the reading grade.
4. The average percent correct on AR quizzes will count as one assessment score in the reading grade for students in grades 3 – 8 and grade 2 starting second semester. This is to reinforce good reading and quizzing habits as well as to ensure that students are gaining as much as possible from AR quizzing. Reading growth using the AR program occurs when students are consistently scoring about 85% on their AR tests.

### **How AR quizzing looks at LPCS:**

**Grade 1** – Reading classes will test as they are ready; quizzing will be in the classroom or the computer lab with a reading teacher

**Grade 2** - AR will be “fun” for first half of school year, with emphasis on learning correct quizzing techniques, and memorizing user name and password. Students will get a point goal for the second semester and the average percent correct will count as one assessment score in the reading grade. Students will quiz in classrooms as well as in the library during reading class, and before/after school quizzing is available to them as well. Students will generally take an AR test during library specials class each week.

**Grades 3 – 6** – Students will receive a point goal each semester. AR will count as 10% of the reading grade. The average percent correct on quizzes will count as one assessment score in reading. Students should quiz in the classrooms (homerooms as well as reading classrooms) whenever possible. Overflow quizzing will also be available in the library during reading class and before and after school. Students in grades 3 & 4 will also generally take an AR test during their weekly library specials class.

**Grades 7 & 8** – Students may test during ELO time as well as during their literature class in the classroom with Mrs. Stone. Students may quiz after school. Students will have a point goal to reach and the average percent correct will count as one assessment in the literature grade as well.

1. **INCENTIVES:** Students will be able to “purchase” a jeans day with points earned from taking AR quizzes. “Prices” for jeans days vary depending on the student’s grade. Reading teachers will assist students in “purchasing” a jeans day weekly on Mondays in reading class. If there is a substitute teacher the class will not get to purchase jeans, they will be able to do so the following week. Students can also earn an AR t-shirt when they’ve accumulated the required points. Jeans days are always on Tuesdays.
2. If you would like to check if a particular book is an AR book, its level and if it has a quiz you can go to [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com). Students may read AR books from other libraries as well as their own personal books. Students may only take AR quizzes at LPCS.
3. Book levels are determined by AR using the ATOS Readability Formula for Books. Levels are determined using full-text computer scans of all the words in a book. Book levels indicate the text’s difficulty and help predict which books may be comprehended by individual readers. ATOS does not analyze the literary merit or suitability of the content. **Book level does not necessarily equal grade level or reading class level.**
4. Research from AR has held that higher scores on AR quizzes are associated with large gains in reading achievement. For this reason, we want to encourage all students to aim for 100% on quizzes, and help them pursue an average of at least 90% on quizzes. **Students should also be encouraged to read a minimum of 20 minutes per day.** For our younger students, this includes being read to and paired reading practice. **Students may use their AR reading minutes on their Pizza Hut reading logs.**

The benefits of using AR have been widely studied and proven. Littleton Prep has always put the highest emphasis on academics and personal student achievement, and with this in mind we are excited to take our students to higher levels of reading comprehension and success.

You can view your child’s progress in AR at any time simply by accessing *AR HomeConnect* from any computer with Internet access. You can share the joy of learning with your child by seeing how they’re doing and helping them to choose new books. Specifically, you can view the results of the last quiz taken by your child and their overall progress. You can find books that have AR quizzes and view My Bookshelf which shows the books on which quizzes have been taken by your child. You may also choose to set up email notifications of up to six email addresses to receive updates of student progress via email. Please see the flyer sent home with your child’s STAR reading test results for more detailed information on *AR HomeConnect*. There is a link to the site on the library web page.

Our goal for this program is to encourage our students to have a life-long love of reading and to increase their reading comprehension by exposing them to new words and knowledge through reading. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, I am here to support your student and help your student. I am looking forward to a great experience for your student!

Thank you,

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