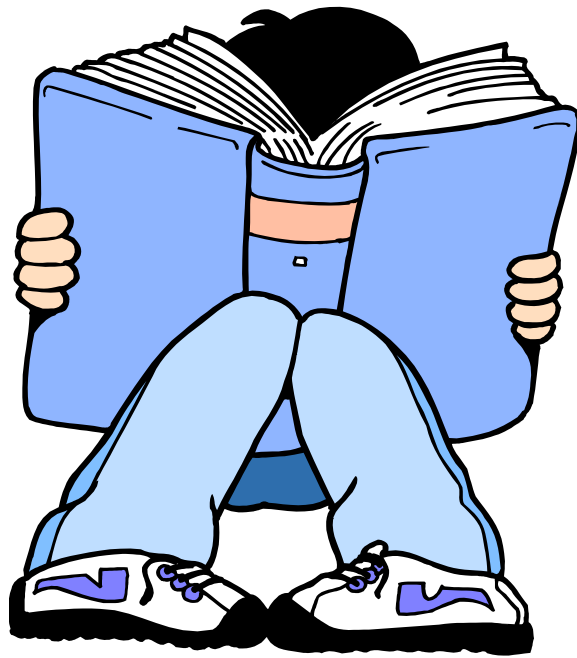


# Accelerated Reader Handbook



Lake Rim Elementary  
2014 - 2015

# Purpose

- Create optimal measurable growth in student reading ability.
- Encourage students to become independent, self-directed readers and learners
- Contribute to the development of critical and analytical thinking skills

# Code of Conduct

- Students may only take tests on books that they have read or that someone has read to them.
- Students may not take a test which has been made into a movie unless they have read the book
- Students may not use Cliff's Notes, videos, or abridged versions of the book to try to pass the test
- Students may not take tests for other students
- Students may not discuss A.R. questions or answers with other students
- Students must not reveal their password to anyone other than a parent or teacher

# The Four Principles of Accelerated Reader

1. Practice and instruction – guided practice and targeted instruction help students become proficient readers
2. Appropriate level – students make more progress when material is appropriate to reading and interest level
3. Feedback – quick, constructive feedback is beneficial to students and teachers
4. Goal Setting – students are more focused and motivated when working toward personal goals

# A.R. Procedures

- The A.R. program can be accessed in the classroom, media center, or in the computer lab. The classroom teacher will set the classroom schedule for using A.R.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students may test in the computer lab while Mrs. Van has a class as long as they are respectful and on task
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade independently test in classrooms or in the media center when accompanied by a TA
- The test may not be read to the student unless specified
- There are no retests.
- A STAR® Reading Test will be given after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of school and at the end of each 9 weeks. The ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development a.k.a “book level range”) will be used as a guideline in determining each student’s reading range and goal. The teacher may decrease or accelerate the range or the goal to meet each student’s individual needs.
- At the start of each 9 weeks, a ZPD reading range will be submitted to Mrs. Van for all 3-5 students (AR Summary Sheet).
- 3-5 students will not be able to test at a level below their range. K-2 students may test on any book.
- All teachers will fill in an AR summary sheet quarterly. Please add new students to your list as soon as they are Star Tested. (The same sheet will be used all year.)
- 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> grade student goals will be based on the number of books read and passed at 80% or above
- 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> student goals will be based on points and passed at 80% or above
- Parents will be notified of their child’s reading range and quarterly goal at the end of each 9 wks. (Include with report card)
- In addition to individual goals, classroom goals should be set. Only students who have met their quarterly goal will receive an incentive
- The media center will be open daily and will give students the opportunity to check out books. (One AR book and one free choice book)
- The Media Advisory Committee (AR Sub Committee) will establish an incentive program for the school.
- If there is a concern with the AR procedures, please fill out an AR Review Committee form and turn it into or email the media coordinator. The committee will meet to discuss the concern and come up with a solution.
- Students must know the book number NOT the book title.

# Facilitating AR

What is our role in making AR a successful program?

Mrs. Van:

- AR administrator
  - Monitors the running of the program, updates, assists, prints out data weekly (Friday), and quarterly (the end of the 9 weeks)
- Conducts Star Testing
- Disseminates STAR® test results to teachers

Mrs. Steigelman:

- Analyze AR data weekly and quarterly
- Motivate students
- Assist in finding books within ZPD range
- Meet with teachers quarterly at scheduled PLC to discuss results and set goals

Teachers:

- Guide students daily reading practice
- Plan and set goals with students
- Motivate students
- Check & Initial reading logs
- Provides Instruction
- Review Diagnostic Report

Students:

- Reads: To, With, and Independently
- **NO** open book quizzes
- Knows ZPD and selects books throughout range
- Maintains reading log
- Shares scores with teacher after quizzing

# All about the ZPD

- Use results from STAR testing to get GE (grade equivalent)
- Grade Equivalent – score estimates highest level at which a student can read short passages
- ZPD – better guide for reading practice, estimates a range of levels where students can read comfortably for hours
- Use goal setting chart
- Setting ZPD is not an exact science
- Make sure students know their ZPDs
- Different ZPD's for Reading To, Reading With, and Reading Independently

Dear Lake Rim Parents,

We are very excited to continue our Accelerated Reader Program from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through Fifth Grade.

**What is accelerated reader (AR)?**

It is a software program that tests students' reading comprehension.

**How does it work?** Your child will check out books that are within his/her reading range. These books can be read during silent reading time in school, as well as at home. Throughout the week, students will have the opportunity to take AR tests on the computer that consist of either 5 or 10 questions about the book.

**How do you know which books to read?**

All accelerated reader books in the library are marked with colored stickers on the spine. Also, on the inside cover is a sticker that shows the reading level of the books. As the children read and take tests, they will quickly advance to harder level books. Book levels will look as follows:

EX:

Level 2.0 -2<sup>nd</sup> Ggrade (August)

Level 2.1-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> month (September)

Level 2.2-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> month (October) etc...

The children will be choosing their own books-please take an interest and encourage them to look for books at the appropriate level. The computer will not allow students in grades 3-5 to take a test on a book that is below their level.

**How will AR work in classrooms?**

Students will read and test on books within their reading range with at least 80% accuracy (any test below 80% will not count toward the goal.) Each quarter students (and parents) will be notified of their reading range along with a goal. Those students who meet their goals will receive an incentive.

\_\_\_\_\_’s first quarter reading range is \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her goals is \_\_\_\_\_ tested with atleast 80% accuracy by\_\_\_\_\_.

Please sign the bottom portion of this sheet and return as soon as possible.

I have read the AR information sheet and will support my child as he/she works toward his/her goal with at least 80% accuracy in the first quarter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature



Dear Parents,

Your child's reading progress has recently been reviewed for the upcoming \_\_\_\_\_ quarter.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's reading range is \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her goals is \_\_\_\_\_, tested with at least 80% accuracy by \_\_\_\_\_.

Please continue to encourage your child to visit the media center often and to choose books within his/her range. The children who meet their goal for this quarter will receive a certificate on Awards Day.

Thank you,

Dear Parents,

Your child's reading progress has recently been reviewed for the upcoming \_\_\_\_\_ quarter.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's reading range is \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her goals is \_\_\_\_\_, tested with at least 80% accuracy by \_\_\_\_\_.

Please continue to encourage your child to visit the media center often and to choose books within his/her range. The children who meet their goal for this quarter will receive a certificate on Awards Day.

Thank you,