

Explorer Elementary Accelerated Reader Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Accelerated Reader (AR) program?

The Accelerated Reader program is a computerized program that tests reading comprehension. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a nationally recognized program developed by Renaissance Learning. The AR program helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice.

How does the AR program work?

Students select books on their reading level, read independently or with a buddy, and take an independent comprehension test on the computer. Each book is worth a certain number of points based on its length and reading level. Students get a percentage of these points based on how many of the test questions they get correct. The program tracks their progress over the course of the school year. AR gives children, teachers, and parents feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help students set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Where and when can my child take the AR test?

There are computers in classroom and eight computers in the library available for AR testing. Each teacher has different rules for when students can take AR tests; however, students can generally take AR tests during recess and free time. Please consult with your child's teacher. Students can also take AR tests before and after school in the library from 8:00-8:15 AM and 3:15-3:30 PM in the library.

How are AR goals set?

At the beginning of each quarter, your child's teacher will help your child set an attainable AR point goal based on some of the following factors; previous AR performance, reading level, reading frequency, and motivation.

How do I check my child's AR progress?

You can check your child's progress through *Home Connect* found at:
<https://hosted42.renlearn.com/247541/homeconnect/Login.aspx>

How do I find out which books are AR books?

AR books are located in the EES library and are marked with an orange dot on the spine. The top of the dot indicates the reading level, and the bottom shows the number of points the test is worth. You can also search for book titles at home or at another library by accessing AR Book Find at
<http://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx> through *Home Connect*.

What happens when my child reaches his/her goal?

Each student meeting their quarterly goal will receive a book of their choice and a restaurant coupon. At the end of the year, each child will be awarded a cumulative ribbon. Each quarter, we will recognize one class in each grade level that has the highest percentage of students meeting their AR goal at one of our Hawk Assemblies, and this class will also receive a class book. The two students earning the highest number of points in each grade level (2nd-5th) will be invited to one of our Pizza with the Principals luncheons PLUS the highest scoring student gets their picture on the LMC wall! Students that meet their quarterly goals all four

quarters will be awarded with an extra book at the end of the year. Research shows that students who read gain the most in growth, and of course our students' additional reading growth is our ultimate goal. A big **THANK YOU** to the **EXPLORER PTA** for sponsoring our A.R. Program!

Who can I contact for help with the AR program?

Your child's teacher, Mrs. Burkhart, and Mr. Nelson can help you with other A.R. questions.

What are date ranges for A.R. testing during the 2016-2017 school year?

First Quarter A.R. Test Dates

8/15/2016 through 10/5/2016

(Students should not test within this time frame: 10/6/2016 to 10/9/2016)

Second Quarter A.R. Test Dates

10/10/2016 through 12/13/2016

(Students should not test within this time frame: 12/14/2016 to 1/3/2017.)

Third Quarter A.R. Test Dates

1/4/2017 through 3/17/2017

(Students should not test within this time frame: 3/18/2017 to 4/2/2017.)

Fourth Quarter A.R. Test Dates

4/3/2017 through 5/16/2017

(Students should not test on 5/17/2017 or later.)

Thank you, and welcome back!

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