

## **Goals**

- Every student of Hamilton Intermediate School, through the teaching and assistance of the library staff, will learn the necessary skills to search and locate materials using traditional means as well as the online catalog.
- Every student, with encouragement and guidance of the library staff, will make progress with the Accelerated Reader Program according to his/her ability.
- Every student will develop a love for reading.

## **Checkout Procedures**

- Each homeroom class is scheduled to visit the Library Media Center one session a week.
- Students are permitted to have two items checked out at all times. One selection must be an Accelerated Reader book in the student's reading range while the other can be student's choice.
- The items are due the second scheduled library day after the materials are checked out.
- Students are responsible for any materials they borrow. The Library Media Center must be reimbursed for any lost or damaged items.

## **Accelerated Reader Program**

Hamilton Intermediate School is very proud of its Accelerated Reader Program. With this program, teachers set required reading goals that become part of the student's Language Art's grade. Once goals are set, students must work hard to read enough books to meet their requirement.

Students must choose books from the Intermediate Accelerated Reader Book List that fall within their individual "reading range" (determined by a special test). After students finish reading each book, they must take a comprehension test about the book on the computer. The software grades the test and then awards points in accordance with the number of correctly answered questions. The maximum amount of points that each book is worth is determined by the difficulty of the book. Therefore, higher-level books are worth more points than lower level books.

All points earned are accurately tracked by the software and an overall cumulative "comprehension score" is tallied.

The software contains an extensive database of quality books recommended for student reading. Books on the Accelerated Reader List can also be obtained from the Columbus Public Library. The Southeast and South High branches have copies of our list. Be sure to ask for the Hamilton Intermediate School AR list. Please make sure you know your child's reading range (see their teacher), so that you can choose titles that fall within this reading range. Also take note of the points possible for the title, so you can track progress towards earning the required points total for the nine weeks.

### **Important Things to Remember about Accelerated Reader:**

In order for your child to be successful in this program (and not jeopardize their Language Arts grade), parents should make sure that children read every evening. Accelerated Reader, a research-based program, recommends that elementary students who read below their grade level (example: a 5th grade student whose range is 3.5–4.5) should read 60 minutes each day in order to bring this level up to where it should be. At the very least, children should read 15–20 minutes each evening. Remember, reading is one of the most important skills every child must practice. More information regarding time recommended, points required, book/range levels, etc. can be acquired by contacting your child's teacher or the library staff.

Books must be on the Intermediate Accelerated Reader Book List and within your child's determined "reading range". This is important in ensuring that all students are being challenged at their individual level.

Students who wait until the last minute to complete their requirement often do not reach their goal. Not only do they find themselves "rushing" through the books, but in doing so, miss important ideas in the story. As a result, the number of quiz questions which they can answer correctly decrease and few points are earned, thus lowering their comprehension scores as well.

### **Library Media Center Favorite Web Sites**

Tekmom's Search Tool for Students

KidsClick!

Author Jan Brett

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site

Children's Literature Web Guide

The Scoop Adventure Page

Seussville

Children's Book Council

Columbus Metropolitan Library