September 4, 2019

Dear Third Grade Parents,

As you know, your child participates in Reader’s Workshop daily. This is a letter to explain the structure of the workshop model and to inform you about our reading expectations of students at home.

Reader’s Workshop Structure in School:

As a mini-lesson, the teacher uses a short text or chapter to model and practice reading comprehension strategies discussed by Lucy Calkins and Kathleen Tolan (these resources can be bought through [www.heinemann.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

Our students are engaging in reading workshop daily for a roughly 45 minute period. The lessons follow the workshop model: Brief, 10 minute “mini-lesson,” 30 minutes of independent reading time, in which the teacher circulates and meets with students, and a short lesson closure. Renowned literacy professor Richard Allington summarizes effective reading instruction as follows in [this article](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar12/vol69/num06/Every-Child%2C-Every-Day.aspx):

1. Students read what they choose within their reading level range.
2. Students read books that they can read accurately: 96% percent accuracy.
3. Students need to talk with peers about what they read.
4. Students need to hear adult fluent readers read aloud daily.

**Expectations for Home:**

1. **Book Bags go home and come back to school every day.**
2. **Students need to read for 20+ minutes and record information on the Reading Log.**
3. **The emphasis is on reading *volume* to practice skills and improve comprehension.**
4. **Students will get reading homework as well, which will need to be completed by the following day unless a different day is specified.**
5. **Adults will model reading habits at home to share in the journey of reading.**

Students will borrow classroom books to read as well as from the school library. To support their reading volume, you can bring them to the public library, book store, or purchase books online. If you do the latter, consider donating books to the classroom after your child has finished reading them. You can download the free app [Book Wizard](https://www.scholastic.com/bookwizardmobile/) to find “just right” books for your child. When you scan the barcodes of books, it can tell you the guided reading levels (GRL) of the books that range from A to Z. FYI, it will not work for all books.

It is our belief that this will be the year your child becomes a life-long reader!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Min, Ms. Momii, Mr. Nutter, Ms. Tapec, and Mrs. Wong