

# Accelerated Reading Program Summary for South School for 2011-12

## Beverly Hills AR Chihuahua

Students read designated books and take quizzes on the computer to accumulate points to help their dogs escape from El Diablo (as in Beverly Hills Chihuahua) and come Home to Beverly Hills AR, and join their class team. Points required are as follows:

### First Semester

Kindergarten	2 points
First Grade	5 points
Second Grade	10 points
Third – Sixth Grade	15 points

### Second Semester

Kindergarten	3 points
First – Sixth Grade	same as first semester

## What Does This Mean?

When a student reaches his/her goal, his/her dog is moved from the “Escape from El Diablo” bulletin board and placed on the “Come home to Beverly Hills” bulletin board. This means the student has earned the required number of points and qualified for the semester reward. First semester we are planning to have a movie with popcorn and drink for those students who qualify. Second semester we are *tentatively* having a skating party again. We also have a school-wide goal for the number of tests passed and this year it is 12,500, and a goal for percentage correct which is 86%. In addition, we may have challenges throughout the year to encourage students to read books and take tests.

## Is That All There Is?

Each week, we recognize the Top Dogs (students with the most cumulative AR points) for the week. This is separated into primary and intermediate levels. The top ten students are recognized and given a treat during library on Tuesdays. The very top primary student and intermediate student each receive an extra little reward.

Each Semester we recognize the following:

- Top Ten Points Primary
- Top Ten Points Intermediate
- Top Dog (most points) Primary
- Top Dog (most points) Intermediate
- Top Pup (most points) Kindergarten
- Top Pup (most points) First Grade

**End of Year we recognize the following:**

**Top Ten for the Year for Primary and Intermediate  
Special Awards for the Top Three Dogs for Primary and Intermediate  
Special Awards for the Top Pups for Kindergarten and First Grade  
Intermediate Alpha Dog  
Primary Alpha Dog**

**Teachers reward their students at their discretion in addition to the above.  
Many use juice and extra recess as rewards.**

### ***Do You Recognize Students Who Have High Scores?***

**We have a program that recognizes the highest percentage in each class each month, as well as the class with the highest percentage. The student is designated as an Alpha Dog, and the class as the Alpha Class. (In nature, the Alpha Dog is the leader of the pack) We are working on a school goal this year of 86% correct for students taking AR tests. We are currently at 82.2% but we started the year at 87.8% - this is not the trend we want. It is very important that a student read the complete book before taking a test, and that the test be taken as soon as possible after completion of the book.**

### ***How Many Points Does a Student Get For Taking a Quiz?***

**A student may receive anywhere from one half point (most 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade books are .5 points) to 44 or more points for taking a quiz and getting all of the questions correct. A student must get at least 60% correct on the quiz to get any points. Partial points are given for scores less than 100%.**

### ***How Do I Know if a Book is AR?***

**AR books may have neon green stickers on the spine or a black or red star at the top of the spine, and in addition, 1<sup>st</sup> grade books may have a red sticker and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade books may have a yellow sticker. The newest books have a sticker inside the front cover of the book with AR information. Inside the front cover of each book, the reading level is indicated, and the number of points, too. Tests are not available on all books, but we try to get tests for as many of the books in our collection as possible. It is also possible to suggest titles for future tests but there is no guarantee that a test will be created. In the Library, there are binders with lists of our AR tests. The three binders are organized by title, author and reading level.**

### **Can I Donate Books or Funds For AR Tests?**

We are always looking for help to purchase more tests. We use a recycling program for inkjet and laser printer cartridges and cell phones to help us buy tests. Please remember to bring us your empty printer cartridges, and cell phones you no longer use, so we can recycle them.

We also have a program called AR and Me that allows parents or students to purchase tests for books we have in the library, and a label is placed in the book showing that the test was donated by them. It costs \$2.99 to purchase a test but for AR and Me we are asking \$3.00 to simplify. This is a nice way to have your student remembered at South without having to make a large expenditure.

In the district, South School does not participate in the Enterprise Version of AR (this is a program that is a per student charge each year with all AR tests available to those students at the school – this is currently 133,508 tests) so the only tests our students can test on are the ones we have purchased. We currently have tests for 6293 books in our library, and these tests are ours forever.

In addition to accepting funds for AR tests, we accept donations of books from students as well. We accept hardback books for the library, but will accept paperbacks to use for our paperback book exchange in the spring, especially if they are popular titles, as long as they are in good shape. If you send books with your student, please send a signed note that specifies your intentions. If the books are not appropriate to be circulated in the library, they may be placed in classrooms, or used in other ways. The donated book will have a label placed inside the front cover designating that it was donated and by whom. You may also donate money for a book in honor of your student's birthday. If you are interested in the Birthday Book program, please call me at the school or email me at [klynch@jsd117.org](mailto:klynch@jsd117.org).

### **How Can I Help Support the AR Program?**

You can help by volunteering your time in the Media Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:45 to 2:25. This is library time for first and second grade, and the students can use help with taking their AR tests. This does not require computer skill, just a willingness to help students read words on tests and record their scores. This is especially helpful during first semester, but parent help makes library time more efficient any time.

The other ways to support the program have already been mentioned above, or you can always check with your student's teacher to see if there are other ways you could help.