



Dear Parents,

We have gotten off to a GREAT start in third grade. All students have taken the STAR reading test, and are in the process of being evaluated individually in reading and spelling.

Since the first week of school, all students have been encouraged to read and take Accelerated Reader tests. The AR program is a very important part of our reading program. It is completely individualized. Students take the STAR test to determine their reading level and then read books and take tests on that level. This is a great way for me to track participation and progress in reading, and more importantly, it is an outstanding motivator for the students.

I usually allow for a minimum of 20 minutes of silent reading and AR testing throughout the day. In addition, the students should be reading each night for a minimum of 20 minutes. I give very little written homework because I feel so strongly that the key to success in all subjects is to read, read, read. Students are given opportunities throughout the day to check out new books as needed. You can also check out books at the Hermitage Public Library. They are supposed to have a list of our AR books and levels. You can access this list online at <http://www.hermitagees.mnps.org/Page15138.aspx>.

Each nine-weeks students will be given a reading participation grade. This grade will be a combination of AR participation based on a minimum of 2 AR points on their level with an average of at least 80 percent each week. Achieving 2 AR points a week is a minimum requirement for third grade. Most students are able to surpass this goal fairly easily.

Thank you so much for supporting me in my efforts to help your child to become a successful reader. Remember, better readers become better students. Let's work together for the success of the children!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mellette

