

Dear Parents,

October 8, 2019

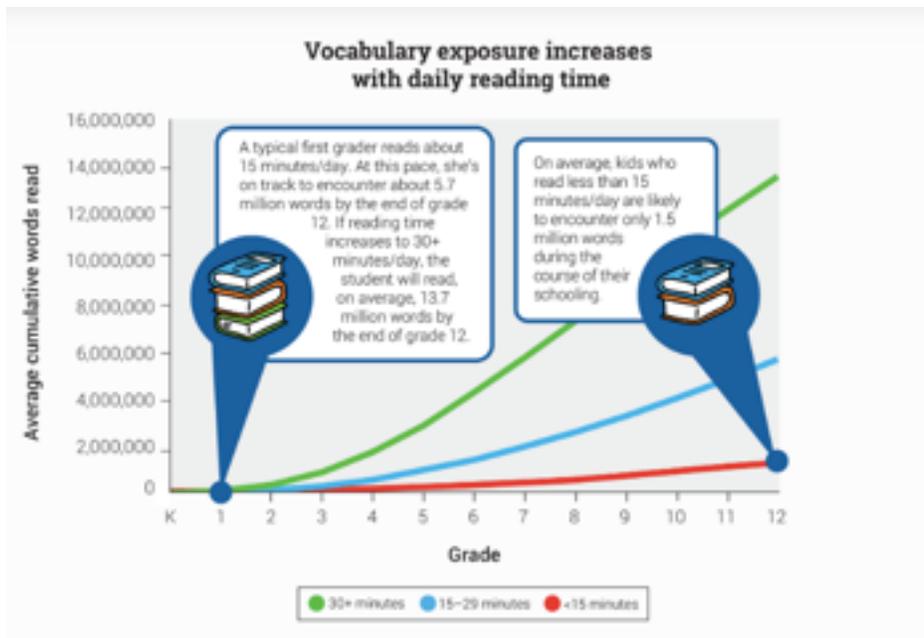
Here it is already October! We are at the five week (halfway point) before grades come out at the ten week marking period (first quarter). If you look at the portal, you will see your child's daily points in our "Strive for Five system" (attitude, behavior and effort) as well as some other scores. <https://www.eastauroraschools.org/Page/7158>

I use this system since I only get to see your child for forty minutes each day. I need and expect them to come in ready to learn and participate. The comment section will be filled in if I felt there was a need to communicate with you at this time. However, all students will receive a comment at the ten week mark.

In reading we are becoming expert WORD NERDS! The students are refining their ability to use each new vocabulary word correctly in context. I've also had a few students tell me they've spotted our Word Nerd words while reading independently!

The only homework I have assigned at this point is READ for 20 minutes each day at home.

There is no way for me to document whether your child is actually reading silently and orally at home but I will assume I have your support and partnership with this request.



We have begun reading a novel called **Frindle**. The main character is a boy named Nick Allen. Could he be considered a troublemaker? Or does he really just like to liven things up at school with his great ideas? When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.

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While reading this chapter book together in class, we will be practicing the skill of **summarizing**. This skill is difficult for many students. It involves thinking about information. To summarize, a student must rethink and reprocess what was experienced during reading. This makes summarizing a skill for thinking. During reading, a student will summarize by using four distinct cognitive skills:

- We must pause and retell what we read.
- Then the student must decide what was important about the text.
- These decisions are paraphrased into the student's own words.
- Finally, the paraphrased thoughts are logically sequenced into a summary.

I have challenged them in class to write a \$5.00 summary (10 cents for each word used) for each chapter we have read. We also have used the outline of a hand...each finger represents one of the 5 W's (who, what,when,where,why) and the palm represents the "how". We will continue to work on this very important skill throughout the school year.

Later this month students will begin to use their CLOSE Reading strategies while enjoying multiple selections in their own individual STORYWORKS magazine. At Storyworks Online, you can:

- Read stories together on a computer or tablet.
- Have your child listen to an audio version of a story while he or she reads along in the magazine.
- Watch videos that go along with certain articles, and talk about what you and your child found interesting.
- Have your child review new words with a vocabulary slideshow

There will be multiple choice comprehension quizzes given after each literary piece that we read. In addition, students will be showing their comprehension in a written paragraph that will require them to answer a question...citing examples in the text as evidence to support their claim. More information to follow as the month moves forward!

* The fifth grade team requires ALL students to bring a book to read to class as well as study hall so that if they are finished with their classwork and homework, they will be able to read to self. What we are seeing is that students are not prepared with a "good fit" book. They are often not prepared with a book or generally just not invested in the books they bring so their reading experience is diminished. Please see that your child has at least two books here at school to choose from.

September book club orders have arrived and have been distributed. Attached you will find the October flyer. Our Class Activation Code: L9NDJ
<https://clubs.scholastic.com/home>

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

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