

WW South Independent Reading Program

Goals:

1. To provide an opportunity for sustained silent reading which research shows is a highly effective strategy for improving reading skills:
 - "The analyses suggest that an increase of five minutes of daily silent reading would be predicted to produce an additional month's growth on a standardized reading achievement test" (Allington, p.31).
 - "More effective teachers simply had students reading two and three times as much material in these content areas (social studies and science) as did the less effective teachers" (Allington, p. 34)
2. To communicate our school-wide commitment to improving students' reading abilities (and PSAE scores)
3. To encourage students to be life-long readers and read for enjoyment
4. To provide for students adult role models who read for enjoyment

The Program:

1. Independent Reading runs every Thursday. 2nd hour students return to their 2nd hour classroom and teacher directly after 6th hour. Periods are shortened to accommodate the reading period. The decision to run the program in this fashion instead of simply extending a single period is to communicate the separate, school wide commitment to our SIP reading goals and to help teachers delineate the reading period from the instructional time. TCD students are able to participate in the afternoon program.
2. During Independent Reading, both students and teachers read for the entire period. Students may read books, magazines, newspapers, anything that promotes the goal of student choice and enjoyment of reading.
3. Students should not be sleeping nor doing other homework during the Independent Reading period.
4. Teachers are encouraged to post and fill out the "I Am Reading" laminated sheet that will be in mailboxes. Feel free to talk with students about what you are reading!

Services:

1. Please feel free to avail yourself of the services of the two reading specialists (Amy Stoops and Jen Wolfe) and the librarian (Cathy Jaeger)
 - a. Short presentations on how to choose a book
 - b. Short book talks on current books, young adult novels, nonfiction, etc.
The staff will tailor their book talks to your time frame and needs
2. The library will have some materials available on Thursday (newspapers, magazines, etc.) for students to pick-up for the reading period. The library will hopefully be open for business by Thursday (though there are no guarantees) for students to check out books they are interested in reading.