

# Mrs. Kaelberer's Reading Class Info

## & Reading Requirements 2024-25

Reading classes did not start out this year the way they normally start out, so this sheet is coming to you a little later than usual. I apologize if there has been any confusion for you and your student. Most of the activities we do in reading class will be explained in this letter so help guide you as you visit with and help your student to be successful in school.

### Read 180 Minutes and IXL Skills:

\*We are going to have the Read 180 program for some of the students, but it is on hold for now as the platform has changed, and we're still working to get it up and running.

So, for now we are using IXL for **all** students in grades 7-8. What is great about IXL is that students are able to take a diagnostic test to help them with areas in English Language arts that they're struggling in, or it helps them continue to practice skills where they're excelling and continues to build on the knowledge they already have. Students are also able to work on their grade-level standards to help them stay on track with what they need in this school year.

That being said there has been some confusion when students start to get graded on the IXL (or in the future Read 180), and I want to clear that up for you and your student.

### **Read 180:**

In the future, if your child is in Read 180 they are required to log 80 minutes of active work time each week using the Read 180 student application. More information to come when we have this program up and running!

### **IXL:**

If your student is in IXL they are required to get **8 skills** done at 10 points per skill for a total of 80 points in a week. I ask them to do **4 recommended skills** (skills that are at their learning

level), and **4 grade level skills**. This way they make progress at their own ability level while still covering important grade level skills. They are required to get their skills that are at grade level, and above, to an 80 smartscore. If the skill is below their current grade level, they need to get it to a 90 smartscore. If they are working on a skill they had started previously that is at a 50 smartscore or higher, grade level doesn't matter they must get that skill to a 100 smartscore to count. They are only able to work on skills that are below their grade level if it is a recommended skill. If students work on skills that are below their grade level and they are not recommended skills, then they will not count for that week.

If we have a short week, or if we have other activities take place, then I modify the minutes or skills they need to finish for the week. For example, the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> is a short week, and we did another reading activity one of the days, so students only needed to finish 40 minutes of Read 180 or 4 IXL skills.

In one week of school I have students for approximately 250 minutes each. The amount of minutes/skills students are required to do is a little over 30% of the time they are in class. The other chunks of time are divided between direct instruction, independent reading, and other grade level reading skills.

**Reading Log:** Students are required to do DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) every day. During this time, students spend about 10 minutes reading from a chapter book they chose themselves from the library. After they read they fill out a reading log. They are required to put the date and a short summary of what happened in their book that day. I ask student to write 3-5 sentences, using good descriptive sentences to explain the most important information. This is a requirement because many will try to write very short incomplete summaries, and this is a great way for students to practice writing summaries. They also need to put down the beginning page, ending page, and total number of pages they read for the day. Each day they are required to fill out their reading logs it is worth 7 points. Most reading logs are filled out over the course of a week and are worth 35 total points each. They may be worth more or less depending on activities and possible days off.

If a student has lost their reading log, or they're gone from class, then they can make up their reading log at home (or during study hall or Bison time) by reading for 10 minutes and then filling out a reading log. If a reading log is worth 35 points, or 5 days' worth of reading logs, then they should do that 5 times, or however many they need to makeup.

**Novel + Other Texts & Reading Activities:** At each grade level we use novels to help us learn about literature and to help develop a love of reading. We cover many reading standards during our novel units by working on packets that cover multiple standards and is due when we complete the novel.

**Make-up/missing work:** When students miss class for any reason (sports, appointments, sick, personal reasons, or other activities) they are responsible for checking in to see what they have (or will) miss, and to get the work done. This is especially important for online work like Read 180 minutes and IXL skills. These are always graded from Monday through Sunday, which gives them time over the weekend to work on anything they missed during the week.

I don't grade online assignments again until the following week, so if they missed minutes or skills that week they can work the following week to make-up their missed work, but the points they earned for that week will go into the gradebook as is to show what they did complete for the week. I do allow students to do extra minutes or skills to get their grade up if they have missed any from the previous week.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me via email, and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. My prep is toward the end of the day, so I may not have a chance to reply to you until that time. If it is after school or on the weekend I may not respond to you until the next school day.

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