

Dear Parent & Guardians,

So glad you have joined PCA! Our library is one important part of our elementary literacy program. We welcome you to what is called Accelerated Reader, also known as A.R., which is the center of our PCA library model.

Our class will go to the library once per week. As a general rule, your child will check out one or two books per week. More books are possible upon request. You may also use books from home or online, if they are part of the A.R. worldwide program and appropriate according to library policies you will soon discover.

With this A.R. program, you and I can see a record of what your child has chosen to read and at what level. Each of our books will have a computerized assessment of multiple choice questions to answer from home when the book is done. You and I can see those test results from our computers, as well.

A.R. is a wonderful way for your child to earn points toward goals and to earn prizes with this ten-minute task if testing is successful. It is designed to help your child to accelerate to higher more challenging books as time progresses. There are student awards at end of A.R. terms and a school-wide party to celebrate success at the end of the year for all students who make goal.

Also, I will send to you some paperwork about our library system, as well. One sheet will ask your permission to participate and to follow the ethical standards we have established. Please sign it and return it right away.

The following is the link to the Accelerated Reader Program itself.

<https://global-zone51.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/295611>

It is essential to copy this link and set up your system at home with a simple copy, paste and save to your desktop.

Your child's username is _____ and password is _____.

It may feel strange at first as we follow introductory steps. Once testing gets started, you will appreciate how easy, quick and fun it is to see immediate results and enjoy reading in a new way.

Sincerely,

Accelerated Reader and Bookfind Program Information

<https://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx?client=HomeConnect>

Important: This program is called **AR Bookfind (or AR Quick Search US)**. It enables you to easily find out if the books you have at home, or find at a store, or at a public library are in our A.R. system at your child's right present level to read and test for possible points. Not all books are registered on A.R., so do check first. Not all books on the worldwide program are suitable for Christian ethics either, so do be vigilant when reviewing your child's book selections by reading the Book Finder synopsis of the book. Points may be disallowed if the book is too easy or inappropriate for our school values based on content or message.

Is the book A.R.? Now, go and find a book you may have at home. Then, use this website AR Quick Search US to find out. Type in the title there. If the book does not surface, it is not A.R. If it is there, read the paragraph about the book. It's that easy. The paragraph tells you important information about the suitability of the book. There may be more than one book with that title. So check the author as well. The cover may look different depending on the edition, so do not be concerned about that. With chapter books, if there are multiple editions, be sure to check if your book is abridged or unabridged.

Book Level: If the book is A.R., the book will appear on screen and it will have a paragraph to tell you the Book Level (BL) which would be something like this: BL 3.5. This stands for a book in 3rd grade, mid-year. Your child's level should match his/her reading grade level skill. Kindergarten is at 0. level, first is at 1. level, second is at 2. level, etc.

Students in grade 5-6 are free to choose from 4.8 or higher because great novels such as *Where The Red Fern Grows* are listed in 4th grade readability range. Students can read higher grade levels with their teacher's permission, but students in Grades 1-4 should not be reading below level for the book to count for points unless the child has direction from the teacher to do so because of special accommodations.

The paragraph on screen should also tell you how many points a story is worth. Most short stories in early grades are worth ½ point or .5. Chapter books vary in point values from 1 point to as many as 30 or more, depending on the length of the book and depth of vocabulary and plot.

The paragraph will also tell you a quiz number for the book. If you copy down this number, it is an easier way to find the A.R. quiz in the search bar for the test than to type in the entire title. Our school titles have the quiz number on the inside jacket.

Measuring Progress: Once your child takes the A.R. quiz after reading the book, then he or she will see a score for the percent correct. The aim is to score 80-100% on questions for the best points. Passing is 60-70% for lower, minimum points. Anything lower than 60% scores 0. Your child will need to score 2 perfect scores to advance to the next level up, such as from 3.5 to 3.6. Another way to move up is to score 3 or more times at 80% or higher to move up a level. Moving up is not required but highly suggested in order to improve skill.

You can register on A.R. Home Connect on the Parent Tab to have your child's scores sent directly to your phone the minute that a test is complete. How cool is that!

I will be monitoring A.R. once per week from now on for all of my students and will advise you if there are any concerns or special successes.