



St. Francis de Sales Parish School

"A Faith Filled Future"

Christopher Scharbach
Principal

Independent Reading Guidelines

St. Francis de Sales Parish School values reading. Because we value reading, we require our students to read independently texts that they choose. We monitor student reading progress, make recommendations about new things students might like to try, and give students an opportunity to interact and to develop reading skills through independent reading. We both support and hold students accountable for this reading.

Accountable Independent Reading has five purposes:

1. To engage and motivate students in learning things they care about
2. To promote students' love of reading
3. To build students' vocabulary: reading a lot exposes students to new words and ideas
4. To build students' knowledge about the world (through both fiction and informational text)
5. To build students' reading "stamina": their ability to read harder texts for longer periods of time

We encourage students to choose texts and topics that interest them. They also should choose books that are at a comfortable or challenging reading level.

Adults have a wide range of beliefs and values about what is appropriate for students to read. The books available for reading in the school often come from national lists and recommendations from librarians and teachers. Some books also relate directly to the content students are studying together in class.

We leave the decision of choosing what is appropriate for you and your child to you. We encourage you to be aware of what your child chooses to read. Some parents or guardians may choose to read a text before they let their child read it. This can help you monitor what your child is reading, and it can be a great opportunity for discussion! You may also contact librarians for summaries and reviews or search online to learn more about a book your child is interested in. If your child is reading a text that does not fit with your family values for reading, certainly that text can be changed.

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We have set up a system in which students set goals for their reading, keep a reading log (about the text and their own opinions about the book), and write reviews of the texts they are reading. Ask your student to share these documents with you. Be sure you know your child's reading goals so you can support him/her on staying on track, celebrating successes, and problem-solving as needed (including knowing when to abandon a book and choose one that is a better fit).

The following is what we at St. Francis de Sales recommend that each student reads independently each night

Grades 1 and 2: 10-15 minutes each night

Grades 3 and 4: 15-20 minutes each night

Grades 5 and 6: 25-30 minutes each night

Grades 7 and 8: 30-45 minutes each night

We hope independent reading will be enjoyable for your student and lead to a lifetime of reading.

