

January 2023

Vol. 04



FAMILY GUIDE

This guide is designed to provide students and families with tips for strengthening literacy and activities that support the monthly social-emotional skill.

Happy New Year, KCPS!

Since September, we've been spreading the joy of reading and developing our students' leadership skills through our KCPS Loves to Read campaign. The start of a new year is a great time to rededicate yourself to previous goals or challenge yourself by setting new goals. As your family is reflecting and setting goals for the year, try to incorporate daily reading. We challenge you to read for at least 15 minutes every day.

In our schools:

Kindergarten – 6th grade students will continue to participate in monthly classroom lessons and activities that address social-emotional skills and connect them to the knowledge they are building through the books they are reading in class.

7th – 12th grade students will continue to have designated time during their advisory period for social-emotional learning, personal reading and goal setting.

STOP AND READ

We encourage our students, parents and guardians, staff and community to make reading part of their daily routines. On the first Wednesday of the month, KCPS will "stop and read" for 15 minutes across the district. Every employee and student are encouraged to participate, and we invite you to join us, too! Simply grab your favorite reading material and read from 10:00-10:15am.

CURIOSITY: *Fostering a willingness to explore new territory and test new theories.*

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
SKILL OF THE MONTH:**

CURIOSITY





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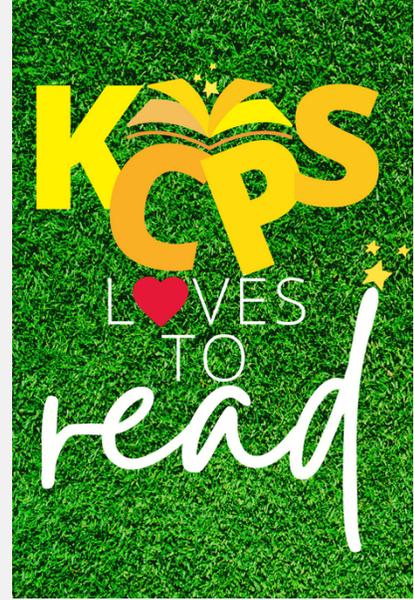
LITERACY TIPS

Questioning: Good readers ask questions to themselves before they read, while they are reading and after they read so they can make sure they understand what is going on in the book they are reading.

Asking questions helps students to interact with the text, gives students a purpose for reading and helps them make predictions as they read.

As students read, stop to ask them about the questions they have in their mind. If they have trouble, prompt them by asking the following:

- What do you wonder?
- Are you curious about something in the book?
- Do you have a prediction?



AT-HOME ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT CURIOSITY



- **Wonder Walk:** Take a walk around your house, neighborhood/community and take notes about your wonderings and observations.
- **20 Questions:** Ask a family member to stand in the center of a circle or people and pick someone to be like an animal or famous athlete. Then they act out the choice, while members of the group guess what there are by asking yes or no questions. If the group members figure out what or who the family member is in 20 questions or fewer, they win the round.

READING CHALLENGE:

K – 6th grade: Read a minimum of 15 minutes each day

7th – 12th grade: Set aside time for personal reading each day

CONNECT WITH KCPS LOVES TO READ

Tune into our virtual read alouds on January 4 and January 18, at 7:00pm on Facebook Live as special guests from the district and Kansas City community read their favorite books. Join us! <https://www.facebook.com/kcpublicschools>.

Did you try any of the tips or activities? Did your student meet the reading challenge? Did you “stop and read?” Show us that YOU love to read! Share pictures of you and/or your family on your social media accounts using the hashtag #kcpslovestoread, or email communications@kcpublicschools.org (with the subject line “KCPS Loves to Read”) to be featured on our social media accounts.

Stop by your nearest KC Public Library branch to check out a section of books that align with the monthly focus skill.