

BUILDING READING ROUTINES

A guide for families seeking to increase literacy and love of reading

ACCESS

Make sure your students have the ability to read books that they enjoy.

Remember

- K-1 students check out one library book per week!
- Contact your librarian if there are books your student is interested in!
- The Missoula Public Library is a free, community resource for book check outs!

CONSISTENCY

Choose a time and setting that works for you and your family.

Remember

- Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes your child to 1.8 million words each school year, increases creativity, and improves critical thinking skills! (1)
- Stick to it! Routines can build a sense of safety for children and give families set quality time,

TOGETHERNESS

Change your perspective about reading from homework to set quality time with your children.

Remember

- Reading together allows children to experience devoted on-on-one time with the people who love them the most.
- Read alouds can become partnerships where students and parents talk together about a shared experience which strengthens the bond of a family. (2)

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The QR codes below link to various resources referenced above that provide additional statistics and information about the importance of reading.

Importance of Reading 20 Minutes A Day



June 7, 2021
Mackenzie Ross
A blog published by Honors GradU which is dedicated to increasing graduation rates for students.

The Rise of Read-Aloud



May 6, 2019
Scholastic Education
A blog published by Honors GradU which is dedicated to increasing graduation rates for students.

Parent-child Joint Reading Time and Increased Skills



August 2020
Michal Zivan & Tzipi Horowitz-Kraus
A research study evaluating the development of print awareness and thinking skills when reading alongside a parent compared to an outsider.



ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF LITERACY

An informational flyer for families seeking to understand the reason reading is crucial and how to help their child find success with reading

WHY IS LITERACY IMPORTANT?

CURRENT SUCCESS

Students who are able to read find more joy in school, have greater self-confidence, and see themselves as readers. (2)

FUTURE SUCCESS

Students who read on grade level in early grades, specifically first and third, have been shown to have higher graduation rates, job acceptance rates, and literacy success throughout life. (1)



STUDENTS IN THE 2-3 BUILDING CHECK OUT 2 NEW LIBRARY BOOKS PER WEEK!

SET A ROUTINE

Find a time and place that works best for your family to have consistent reading time.

WHY? This allows reading to have a positive place in your family and gives a set quality time to share with one another.

ALLOW CHOICE

Let your child choose the book they want to read.

WHY? This builds a relationship between the children and family that then allows the child to feel as though they have equal investment in the reading.

MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

Ask questions, do voices for characters, point out what you notice!

WHY? Your child already looks up to you. By modeling positive reading experiences, your child will then begin to learn the process as well as know that reading is a fun, interactive activity.

TIPS TO ENCOURAGE A LOVE OF LITERACY

SPEAK POSITIVELY

Choose your words wisely when talking about reading.

WHY? Your child is always listening and what you say matters to them. If you make reading sound like homework or a chore, they will do the same because they value what you have to say.

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

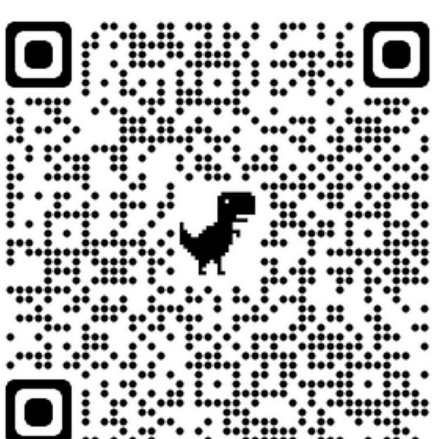
The QR codes below link to various resources referenced above that provide additional statistics and information about the importance of reading.

30 Key Child Literacy Stats



February 14, 2019
Literacy Project Admin
Statistics about literacy published by the Literacy Project, an organization working toward a more literate world.

Helping Kids See Themselves as Readers



May 1, 2015
Valerie Strauss
Through a series of conversations with a cognitive scientist, the author relays information about how self-confidence is linked to reading.

NO BOOK? NO PROBLEM!

The following are activities you can do with your child to improve critical thinking, comprehension, and play with words when you don't have a book handy.

HAVE A CONVERSATION

Take turns sharing what you are thinking about. Allow your child to share about their interests, life, or thoughts.

ASK QUESTIONS

Look up lists of questions to get the conversation started or ask about something in their life. Avoid questions that can be answered in one word.

I SPY & 20 QUESTIONS

Take turns identifying objects around you and asking each other questions about them.

WORD ASSOCIATION GAMES

Start by saying a word then let the next person say a word that comes to mind when they hear that word. Continue taking turns until no one can make a connection.

THIS OR THAT

Choose two similar items and have the other person decide which one they prefer. Make them give a reason to make it a little more interesting!

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Ask one another questions where they have to choose one option over the other. Generally these are weird or gross situations.

IDENTIFY COMMON SYMBOLS

Look around the space you are in to find common symbols. Talk about the symbol and what it means.

LINK SOUNDS TO LETTERS

Say sounds aloud and have the other person say the letter. Take it one step further by saying sounds that represent multiple letters.

CHUNK AND BLEND WORDS

Break common words down into their sounds and let your child blend them together. Once your child is doing well with blending have them play the teacher role.

THE PERFECT BOOK FOR YOUR CHILD

An informational flyer for families on the benefits of nontraditional formats of reading and books!

WHAT ARE TRADITIONAL FORMATS OF READING?



Traditional formats of reading are stereotypical print books. These rely heavily on words with oftentimes few images to get their meaning across.

HOW ARE GRAPHIC NOVELS & AUDIOBOOKS DIFFERENT?

GRAPHIC NOVELS...

- Rely heavily on images
- Have minimal text
- Can be fiction or nonfiction

AUDIOBOOKS...

- Are the same print stories read aloud by audiobook narrators

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GRAPHIC NOVELS & AUDIOBOOKS?

GRAPHIC NOVELS...

- Increase critical thinking skills as readers have to infer meaning
- Use complex vocabulary that exposes students to higher level words
- Include all of the elements of stories that high-quality print material has



AUDIOBOOKS...

- Allow readers to access books of a higher thinking and reading level
- Activate the same parts of the brain as print reading
- Provide busy bodies an outlet while still engaging their brain
- Model fluent reading for readers



HOW TO ACCESS

1. Library day! Students in Building 3 have the opportunity to check out 2 books each week!
2. Sora! Students can access E-books, graphic novels, and audiobooks online via Sora.

HOW TO LOG INTO SORA!

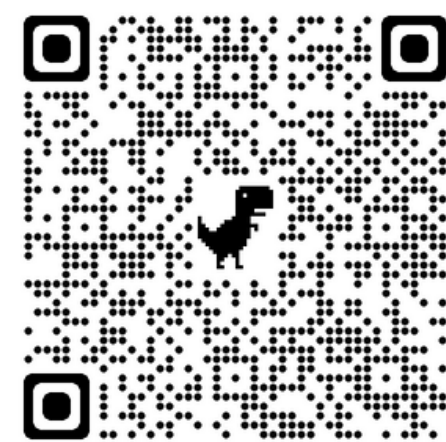
The QR code will send you to a Google Doc with directions on how to log in to Sora! You can do the same for the public library but need a public library card!



RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

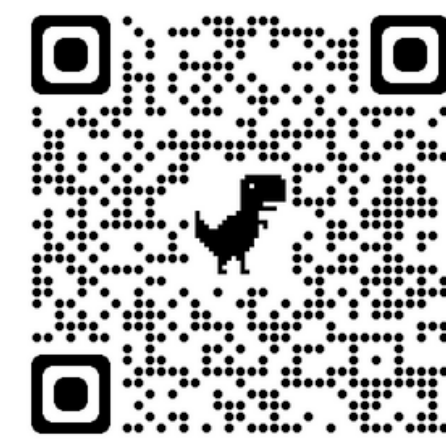
The QR codes below link to various resources referenced above that provide additional statistics and information about the value of audiobooks and graphic novels.

3 Ways Graphic Novels Benefit Reading Skills



March 23, 2023
Scholastic Parents Staff
A short article with links to research supporting the critical thinking skills involved with reading graphic novels.

Are Audiobooks as Good for you as Reading?



September 6, 2018
Markham Heid
An article explaining what researchers see as pros and cons to audiobooks.

CONTACT YOUR LIBRARIAN

Deb Westrom, Building 3 Librarian
dwestrom@hellgatesd4.k12.mt.us

READING AND TECHNOLOGY

An informational flyer for families about how to get their students reading and aware of the impact of technology.

BUILDING 4 BOOK ACCESS

1 day per week students will go to the library with their ELA class.

Students can access the library daily during morning break!

Students can read online with Sora via their school computer.

CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER

All kids, at all ages, need to be taught relevant life skills. In middle and high school many of these life skills revolve around balance. In today's world, this means teaching kids traditional skills such as balancing homework and a job but also managing technology.

Any reading is good! Studies have shown slight differences between traditional means of reading and more modern forms. Some modern forms of reading even teach skills that are not emphasized in traditional formats.

Students learn from you! If you are modeling appropriate screen time and technology usage, they will see the importance of such values and seek to copy you. This also applies to reading! It's good for everyone!

READING APPS



SORA

Audiobooks, graphic novels, and books are available through Sora. See the QR Code for directions. Sora is Hellgate's ebook option. It is available for free to students.



LIBBY

Libby is through the Missoula Public Library. It is their ebook option. They have thousands of titles in various formats. It is available with a Missoula Library card for free to Missoula residents.



KINDLE & AUDIBLE

Novels and graphic novels are available through the Kindle app. Audiobooks are available through Audible. There are some free options but you must have an Amazon, Kindle, or Audible account. Basic accounts are free! Students do have more access to titles so safety features are recommended.



YOUR LIBRARIAN

Peggy Racicot, Building 4 Librarian
pracicot@hellgatesd4.k12.mt.us

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The QR codes below link to various resources referenced above that provide additional statistics and information about the impact of technology on youth, how to limit technology, and ways encouraging middle schoolers to read.

How and When to Limit Kids' Tech Use



2023
Melanie Pinola
This guide breaks down technology usage by age bracket for what is considered appropriate by researchers.

20 Ways to Keep Your Middle Schooler Interested in Reading



March 23, 2023
Scholastic Parents Staff
A list of tips and ideas to engage your middle school student in reading in order to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

LOG INTO SORA!

The QR code will send you to a Google Doc with directions on how to log in to Sora! You can do the same for the public library but need a public library card!





**BOOK
BINGGO
PRIZES!**





**BOOKS TO
CHOOSE
FROM!**






BOOK BINGO!


4-8 GRADE LITERACY NIGHT





FAMILY INFORMATION!

4-8 GRADE LITERACY NIGHT



SORA LOGIN DIRECTIONS

If on a tablet or mobile, download the Sora app from the App Store



If on a computer or laptop, go to Soraapp.com

CAN WE USE YOUR LOCATION?

Click Find My School

Click No, I'll search for my school

LET'S FIND YOUR SCHOOL.

In the search box type your student's school.

- Building 3 (4-6) Type: Hellgate Intermediate
- Building 4 (7-8) Type: Hellgate Middle

Click on the appropriate result when it pops up.

MONTANA SHARED LIBRARY SCHOOL DIGITAL COLLECTION

In the search box type your student's school a second time.

- Building 3 (4-6) Type: Hellgate Intermediate
- Building 4 (7-8) Type: Hellgate Middle

Click on the appropriate result when it pops up.

SIGN INTO HELLGATE SCHOOL

Contact your student's librarian for their library card number and input it.

BUILDING 3 (4-6) LIBRARIAN

Deb Westrom
dwestrom@hellgatesd4.k12.mt.us

BUILDING 4 (7-8) LIBRARIAN

Peggy Racicot
Pracicot@hellgatesd4.k12.mt.us