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

**FAMILY GUIDE**

**KCPS LOVES TO READ**

We’re still 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 recommit yourself to previous goals or challenge yourself by setting new ones. 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.

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

**CONFIDENCE**

- Thinking independently, expressing ideas, and pushing through the hard parts with resilience
- What questions do you have?
- What are you wondering about in something that you are reading or have read lately?

We encourage our students, parents and guardians, staff and community to make reading part of their daily routines. Each month, KCPS school staff and students will “stop and read” for 15 minutes. Every employee and student is encouraged to participate, and we invite you to join us, too! Simply set aside at least 15 minutes and grab your favorite reading material.

**www.KCpublicSchools.org/read**
I'm Proud of Me: have all family members write down three reasons why they are proud of themselves and share with one another.

Confidence Boosters: have family members write anonymous notes of praise to one another.

Visualization: as students read, they should be creating images in their mind about what they are reading. These images can be of the characters, events in the story and/or of the setting (time and place) of the story.

As your student reads, stop them and ask them to describe the images that are in their mind. You can even have them draw the images in their mind when they are finished reading.

Discuss the parts in the story that were easy for them to imagine and the parts that were more difficult for them to imagine.

AT-HOME ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT CONFIDENCE

- **I'm Proud of Me:** have all family members write down three reasons why they are proud of themselves and share with one another.

- **Confidence Boosters:** have family members write anonymous notes of praise to one another.

**READING CHALLENGE:**

- **K – 6th grade:** Read a minimum of 15 minutes each day
- **7th – 12th grade:** Set aside time for personal reading each day

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation and the world. Black History Month recognizes and celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of America's history. You and your family can celebrate Black History Month by reading about Black history and culture, and by reading works by Black authors and creators. If you need reading suggestions, check out the PBS Kids website or visit the KC Public Library.

**CONNECT WITH KCPS LOVES TO READ**

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.

Visit our webpage for suggested book lists (grades preK–12) and additional literacy resources: www.KCpublicSchools.org/read