

Middle School Guidance



Raising Readers Matters

September 2010

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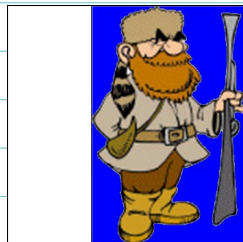
Children who enjoy reading will, naturally enough, spend time reading. Because spending time doing anything is the path towards becoming more proficient at it, those children who enjoy reading will become accomplished readers. They will do better in school, score higher on the SATs and have an easier time tackling higher education than others. The children who enjoy reading when they are young will thus grow up to have greater opportunities in life. As readers, they'll also be more able to entertain and comfort themselves, and through books, they'll have the chance to learn great things and visit fabulous worlds. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles that keep kids from becoming readers. The proliferation of movies, television shows, and computer games today take time away from reading. The increase in the volume of activities and sporting events in schools today also cuts down on reading time, as does the emphasis on testing in schools. Many parents are too busy working multiple jobs to read on their own, or to read with their children. And, saddest of all, some children don't have access to books in their own homes. Having one's own books has real power. There's pride of ownership. There's the validation that

comes from someone caring enough to provide the books. There's the chance to read and re-read, without having to return a book to the library. There's the opportunity to become proficient at reading, through reading books with parents, and re-reading them alone. Every book that lands in a child's hands opens up new possibilities. Of course, having the books is only part of the solution. Parents who want to raise children who appreciate books should read aloud to the those children, beginning from birth (or earlier), and continuing for as long as they possibly can. Reading aloud to your children even after the children know how to read offers tremendous benefits, such as exposure to books that the children can't yet read on their own, closeness, demonstration of the value of reading, and the opportunity to open up discussion topics. Other tips for raising readers include helping your children to find the books that interest them (rather than forcing them to read books that aren't to their tastes, or forcing them to advance through reading levels too quickly), modeling reading behavior by reading yourself (and yes, newspapers and magazines count, too), providing cozy spaces in

your home for reading, and limiting screen time to allow more time for books. It all comes down to showing the reading is important, by giving it time, while also making it a pleasurable activity rather than a high-pressure chore. Helping a child to become a reader is one of the greatest gifts that an adult can give, a gift that continues to pay dividends throughout the child's life.

Quote of the month

"Yes, I have failed and I will fail over and over again. But I am not a failure because I can see success coming from the horizon."



**Berlin
Mountaineers
#1**

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into the Logic House Parent Portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

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Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

September 2, 2010 - School picture day (Kindergarten through twelfth).

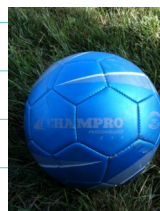
September 6, 2010 - Labor Day. No School.

October 1, 2010 - First Nine Week Grading Mid-Term.

October 8, 2010 - Homecoming.

October 11, 2010 - ACT 80 Day. No school for students.

November 2, 2010 - End of First Nine Week Grading Period.



**Good Luck Fall
Mountaineer Sports!**

