

FAQs FOR THE ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

What is the Accelerated Reader program?

Accelerated Reader is a program that encourages children to read by earning points for the books they read. It evaluates reading comprehension by asking very specific questions that force them to pay attention to details. Therefore, it is also a great tool for the parents to target appropriate reading level books and encourage further reading and diversity of choice, eventually leading the children to become more interested in increasingly challenging books and discovering the great classics of literature.

How does it work?

Each book in the accelerated reader program scores a certain number of points. Younger readers have a choice of either picture books or beginner chapter books valued from 0.5 to 1 point. They have to answer 5 to 10 questions depending on the book. The questions are multiple choice. In order to earn points and pass the quiz, your child must answer at least 60% of the questions correctly.

Let's say your child takes a quiz on a book worth a whole point but gets only 9 answers correct, your child will score 0.90 points. Each quiz helps him/her accumulate points. At the end of each quarter, Miss Cantillon identifies the school-wide winners (1st - 5th place) in each grade (K-8).

The top reader in the school earns additional incentives.

The students with the most points in each grade that quarter are awarded gift certificates, from Warwick's or Azul. There is also a school-wide raffle that all students who have met their personal reading goals are eligible to participate in. In addition to the school awards, classroom teachers use other incentives for students who have met and exceeded their personal reading goals.

Teachers will be sending **school-to-home reports** periodically for you to

review your child's progress. Each child is required to earn a certain number of points per month. Goals vary depending on the child's grade and reading level.

How does my child take a quiz?

Your child takes a quiz by logging-in on the computer **at school only** (classroom, library, or computer lab).

The user name is the child's first name (whole) with last initial (one word).

The password is the student's last name.

Example:

User Name: bobbys

Password: smith

****Some children might have to add letters to their last names in case there are several Bobby Smiths in the school. Check with your child, he/she should know his login and password by now.*

Next, the student needs to select the book he/she has read by typing the title **or** a few words of the title. The computer finds the appropriate book and then asks the child if the book was read to the child, read **with the** child (the child reading with someone to help) or read **independently**. The answer does not matter for the scoring. There is no limit on how many quizzes your child can take per month. Books on tape are OK; they go on the "read to" category.

Where can I find the titles available?

SMA has access to ALL quiz titles. Simply go to the AR page on the Stella Maris Academy website and link to the Accelerated Reader page to view titles.

Your child should read books that are at, slightly above or slightly below his/her reading level. Ask your child's teacher or Mrs. Zipp if you would like more specific recommendations.