FAQ Document: Teachers

Q: How are my students expected to keep track of their nightly reading?

A: Students are expected to use their District planners to track their reading (15 minutes/night for K-8 students and 60 minutes/week for High School students). Parents of K-8 students are expected to sign off on their child's reading times.

Q: What if one my students has misplaced their District planner and needs a new one?

A: We are not able to replace District planners for students who misplaced them. They are welcome to purchase their own planner at Walmart or Target to track their nightly reading. Teachers are also able to provide students with their own version of a reading tracker to document their nightly reading times.

Q: What if I received a new student after I passed out District planners to my class at the start of the year?

A: We have extra District planners for students that enrolled in their school after the original District planners were first passed out. Before you request a new planner, make sure you check your main office/book room to ensure that your school doesn't have any extra planners packed away. If you are positive that your school doesn't have any extra, email steven.benson@detroitk12.org with how many planners you need.

Q: Do I have to use the District planners? What if my students are already tracking their reading on a reading log that I gave to them at the start of the year?

A: No, the District planners are not required. They are just a suggestion since all students should have received a planner. Feel free to require that your students track their reading in some other way (reading log, paper tracker, etc.).

Q: Once a student finishes a book, what do they do?

A: On the night they finish their book, they should write the title of that book in their planner. Then, they have to answer one of the questions from the reader response sheet. They can submit a written response to their teacher, or they can submit a video response on FlipGrid. Once they complete 1 of the 2 options, their book will be counted as complete and they can move on to their next book.

Students Rise. We all Rise

Q: What is FlipGrid?

A: It's an app/website that allows teachers and students to create videos and share them with each other. It's similar to snapchat, but more professional and is intended for academic purposes. Click here to learn more about FlipGrid. Remember, students don't have to use FlipGrid to submit their reflection for their book. They also have the choice to submit a written reflection.

Q: How do I set up a teacher account on FlipGrid?

A: It's very easy to set up an account, but rather complex to explain. The best way to learn is to experiment yourself. But, if you want some more guided support, click this PowerPoint and follow the screenshots.

Q: What are my main responsibilities as an ELA teacher with Rise Up Read More?

A: As an ELA teacher, you are familiar with the benefits of independent reading. Many of you are already implementing reading challenges in your classroom. Do whatever you know your students need to be encouraged and reinforced in reading independently. The more independent reading is reiterated in your classroom, and prioritized across the building, the higher chance that it becomes something that more students want to get involved with. Aside from strategies to increase investment with students, here are some of the mandatory technical responsibilities of teachers…

1) Create a FlipGrid account for your class OR designate a space in your room for students to submit their written responses.
2) At the end of the quarter, report total number of books read in your class to your principal. Your leadership team is responsible for creating a process for teachers to report book totals each quarter.
3) Check student planners/reading logs to see how students are doing with independent reading at home. Incentivize those that are reaching their reading goals and implement interventions for those students who are falling behind in their nightly reading commitments.

Students Rise. We all Rise

Q: What are the dates for the quarterly challenges?

Challenge dates	Reporting deadlines	Award Announcement	Award Delivery Date
Quarter 3 January 28- April 11	April 19	April 26	Week of April 29
Quarter 4 April 12- May 24	May 31	June 7	Week of June 10

Q: How many schools win the quarterly competitions?

A: 2 schools from each cohort win. Click here to find the list of cohorts. Cohorts A&B and will have 2 K-8 winners. Cohorts C&D will both have 1 K-8 winner and 1 High School winner.

Q: What are the quarterly prizes my school can win?

A: Each quarterly winner will receive a special treat (served by District staff) for all students and staff during breakfast or lunch. Some options include ice cream sundaes, root beer floats, donuts and hot chocolate, etc.

Q: What is this about a grand prize winner at the end of the year?

A: All of the quarterly winners receive 1 entry into the grand prize raffle. If a school wins both quarters, they receive 2 entries. At the end of the year, we will randomly pick one school to win the grand prize. Some options for the grand prize include school dance, private viewing of a movie, skating party, or school concert.

Q: What is this about a 10 book reading goal?

A: In order to honor individual students for their accomplishments in reading, all K-8 students that read at least 10 books by the end of the school year are invited to the Reading Extravaganza. At the event, students will receive certificates, medals, and other prizes to celebrate their reading successes throughout the year. More details to come.

Students Rise. We all Rise

Q: Why are we tracking the number of books read instead of pages or minutes?

A: Since this is an initiative that every school and every student is involved with, we needed to ensure that tracking was as easy as possible and didn't add additional barriers to reading. Since students have to submit a reading reflection once they finish a book, either written or on FlipGrid, it helps the teacher and the school easily identify the total number of books read. For example, if at the end of the quarter, a school has 40 FlipGrid video submissions and 60 written reflections, then it's easy to determine that the school has read 100 total books. This process wouldn't be as efficient if we tracked number of pages or minutes, because we would have to add in additional steps (i.e. students keeping track of their page numbers, teachers having to spend time figuring out total pages read across all their students, etc.). Furthermore, the goal of Rise up Read More is to build and sustain a love for reading in students, and we want students to experience as much as possible the beauty of reading a book from cover to cover.

Q: Am I allowed to implement "mini" reading challenges in my classroom to encourage students to read more? What about reading challenges across our entire school?

A: 100% We have already seen an increase in independent reading at the schools that have implemented some mini independent reading challenge or program. Some schools have even decided to create a challenge around total number of pages read. This is totally fine as long as schools still track total number of books read and can report these numbers to the District on the appropriate date. We highly encourage schools to use the District's Rise Up Read More as a model and consider how they can reproduce these competitions on a smaller scale in their building.

Students Rise. We all Rise