

RAP
(Reading Action Plan)
Team R's Reading Program
Parent/Student Explanation

PLEASE read through this important information WITH your student. Read this carefully, as many students do not adequately relay the R Team reading requirements to their parents throughout the year. Sign the bottom portion on the back and send it back to Mrs. Anderson by _____. You might want to keep the upper portion on the "fridge" or in another prominent place in your home!

What is it? One of the goals of Stilwell Junior High is to improve the reading skills of each of our students by 1.2 years in the ITBS test of reading comprehension. Our RAP is the R Team's attempt to reach that goal.

What must the student do? **READ!** All students at SJH must have a free reading book with them at all times. Book checks (for a grade) will be held in many classes. Book logs are located in the students' planners. This log is a *very important parent "tool"* to track the progress of your student's reading. Many families have made the reading program a *family* commitment, setting aside time for all to read after dinner or just before bed—instead of the television!

Specific requirements for student reading:

- **While the student reads a book, he/she is required to complete a pink "reading strategy" form** (this is available in many of the R Team teachers' rooms). Some students do not complete this form until they are done with the book--it is MUCH more difficult to complete the form in this manner. Encourage them to answer the questions **as they read**; students who do this, complain much less! Students are encouraged by Mrs. Anderson to use the form as a bookmark.
- **When the student completes a book, he/she MUST schedule a book talk with one of the R Team teachers and take their completed pink forms with them.** There are other teachers in the building who are willing to schedule book talks as well (some students have even asked the principal). The student can sign up for these talks on a calendar in the rooms of Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Matthias, Mr. Herr, or Mr. Bissinger. **Monday mornings are the best time** to go to a teacher's room to schedule the talk to fit with the student's needs. The talks are usually held during study halls and before or after school. Students *may* talk about **two** books in one time period with some teachers.

WARNING--- many students wait to get their reading done until the end of the semester (just before grade time). IT IS DIFFICULT to schedule book talks when all of the students need them at the same time. They will be reminded **CONSTANTLY** to get the reading done in a timely fashion. **DO NOT BELIEVE your student if they say, "I can't get a book talk time!"** Responsible students find a way to get the job done; if a student waits until Thursday afternoon to schedule a book talk, most students *would* find the calendars full! Remind your student to **get a hall pass from the book talk teacher** for this book talk time so they can be dismissed from study hall or allowed into the building before school begins.

These book talks are a very enjoyable time for teachers and students to get to know each other. We often talk about lots of things besides the books, and it only takes about five to ten minutes of their/our time. **After the book talk, the teacher signs the student book log inside the planner. When you check your student's planner to assess his/her reading—only count the SIGNED books they have listed.**

- **How many books should the students read?** R Team students receive a reading grade at the end of each semester. If the student reads eight books **AND** has completed book talks for those books, the student receives an A in reading. This goal could be achieved by reading 2 books a month. Six completed books and book talks would result in a grade of B.
- **A book must be a minimum of 175 pages and NOT be an elementary reading level! See Mrs. Anderson privately if you would like an exception to this rule because of low reading ability. Books over 400 pages count as two. Books under 175 pages count as a half of a book. NO BOOKS FROM MOVIES!!! NO RE-READS, please.** Do your re-reading in the summer!
- **How long should a student wait after completion of a book to schedule a book talk?** We have found that the longer a student waits to talk about his/her book, the more the student forgets what he/she has read. Because of this **we only allow a student to have a book talk WITHIN THE MONTH the student finishes the book. The first week of the following month is also allowed**, so as to accommodate students who finish a book at the end of a month. If a student completes a book on September 5th and waits until October 30th to schedule a book talk, the student *will not be allowed* to complete a book talk for that book when he/she meets with the teacher. This specific student would have had all of September and the first week of October to get the book talk scheduled.

******Does any of this make a difference?** YES! Last year our students read over 1800 books! That averaged out to around 14 books per student! Most all students agreed that they read more books as a result of our program and that many new reading habits were established. Seventh grade AGS reading scores and eighth grade ITBS reading scores have been on the rise the past four years—something we know is directly attributable to the increase in reading time and the class instruction of various reading strategies.

******This program is not as complicated as it sounds!** Mrs. Anderson discusses the reading requirements MANY times in her English classes. She does reading log checks in her class and reminds students to pick up their pink sheets and schedule their book talks. Students are given many opportunities to ask questions of ANY R Team teacher if they are unclear about any aspect of the RAP. It's all about RESPONSIBILITY!!! It is sad to see a student read the books but not complete the pink sheets and the book talks; they must understand the accountability portion of this grade.

Thank you, in advance, for your help with this important part of your student's seventh grade reading commitment. If you have any further questions, please ask your student for help or e-mail Mrs. Anderson and she would be glad to assist you in any way. Andersonb@wdmcsd.org

Please sign and have your student return this form so that Mrs. Anderson knows your student shared it with you!
Thank you! It is so important that parents understand and promote this program. Please ask Mrs. A any questions ***NOW***, rather than just before the end of each semester!!

I have read this form with my student and understand that reading is an important part of the R Team instruction this year. Student name _____ Parent signature _____