



**MCPOLIN OFFICE UPDATES**  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

Hip, Hip, Hooray and great news! We are into the month of September – given the year a milestone worth celebrating. Another celebration is now that we are gaining confidence and momentum in reference to our safety procedures and routines as well as a focus on the social and emotional wellness of everyone, we are ready to shift gears to student academic needs and classroom instruction.

What we know is the ability for a student to read on his or her grade-level is one of the most important skills gained in school. Reading abilities are necessary for nearly every subject. Now that we are ready to move on to academic instruction, here are five strategies to support student reading skills:

- **READ ALL THE TIME** – It just makes sense that the more time spent reading improves a student’s reading skills, and the benefits are well documented. Reading 30 mins. a day will improve both intelligence and emotional IQ, reduces stress, and further allow readers to, on average, live longer than non-readers. Which means, you will have more time to read. Sounds like a win/win to me.
- **READ OUT LOUD** – All students benefit from hearing others read. Finding time for routine read-alouds in the classroom and at home has many benefits. Students can hear the sounds and rhythms of other reader’s as well as focus on key vocabulary words or elements of a story in a different way. No matter what grade students are in or at what level of reading they are, they can benefit from a read aloud. In addition to reading to your students, give them the opportunity to read out loud. It will build confidence and give you an insight to where your student’s reading level is.
- **READ IT AGAIN** - Students do not have to read something new every time they pick up a book. Re-reading the same book over and over again can help your student become more comfortable with his or her reading abilities and help him or her become more familiar with key vocabulary words. Re-reading sentences and paragraphs of a story can help students clear up confusion, correct errors or discover something they missed the first time.
- **TALK ABOUT READING** - Teaching your students to talk about what they have read can also help improve their reading levels. As students make predictions, answer clarifying questions and analyze what they are reading, they learn to ask questions as they read and build skills to improve comprehension. Talking about reading can be an informal discussion. Simply asking your student what he or she thought about a book or to share his or her favorite part of a book can be beneficial.
- **FIND THE RIGHT BOOK** - Sometimes a student’s biggest problem when it comes to reading is that reading simply isn’t fun. This may be because the student is not reading books at an appropriate level or because he or she is not reading books that interest him or her. It may be that students who say reading is boring simply have not found the right book. Finding the “right” book can be magical and transform a student’s thinking about reading. Phantom Tollbooth was mine in fifth grade. Look for something that fits the student’s reading level and interests and comes with no strings attached.

With that shared a reminder that **our PTO (P.arent T.eacher O rganization)** is an amazing group of working parents that welcome all families to join. Without a doubt, the MPES PTO makes us a better school. They help with funding for the unlimited needs necessary to support our teachers, students, and families and so much more – more so now than ever. Now is an even more important time to help as you can. You can locate the names and contacts for the officers and other PTO members on the school website under the “Community” tab. Now is a perfect time to “jump in” as the goal in September is to win the PCEF “Beat the Call” challenge with the winning school prize of \$8,000. The winning school is based on the percentage of families that participate, not the amount of money raised. Anyone can win and the more people/volunteers to help get out the word the better.

**Important Dates and Information:**

- **LABOR DAY**  
No School Monday, September 7th

Sincerely,  
Bob Edmiston