Accelerated Reader Letter for Parents

General Information
Accelerated Reading’s goal is to motivate students to increase their reading comprehension and reading levels. These tests will be taken on the classroom/library computers. All AR books and tests are listed on each classroom and school computer. Students may only take tests on school computers.

ZPD Definition
Each student is assigned a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). The ZPD is tested at the beginning of each semester. The ZPD can be located on the STAR Reading report. The ZPD is a set of numbers showing the lowest reading level and the highest reading level appropriate for each student. Students should choose books on or in between these numbers to help make sure they are reading books that are not too easy or too difficult.

For example, a student with ZPD 1.1 – 2.1 should choose books that are for a student who is reading at 1st grade, 1st month to 2nd grade, 1st month. The average reading level for this student would be somewhere in between these two numbers. (levels for the example student are: 1.1,1.2,1.3,1.4,1.5,1.6,1.7,1.8,1.9,2.0,2.1)

AR Goals
The goals are the minimum number of AR points each student should get. The goals are set for each grade level yearly. Students get points by successfully passing tests. Each student’s goal is based on his or her grade level. Students should strive to take one to two tests per week depending on their reading level. Our goal is that the students will make 100% on each test they take. However, students who earn less then 100% on their test scores may need to read more AR books per week to test on in order to reach their goal. The only way to get full points on a test is to get 100%. Students who get a lower score will only get part of the book’s possible points. Students may need to read more than one book per week to get their total points. Students who get scores 75% and below do not understand what is read as well as the average student who reads this book. Students have only one opportunity to take a test. They may not take a retest on the books.

Durham Specific AR information
We are embracing the AR program this year at Durham and encouraging all of our students to make their personal goal. Durham AR goals as follows:

First Grade - 10 pts
Second Grade- 20 pts
Third Grade – 30 pts
Fourth Grade – 40 pts
Fifth Grade – 50 pts

Students receive dog tags for points every grading period. The first dog tag and necklace is awarded after 5 points. Thereafter, students are awarded in increments of 10. Students may also visit the AR store to claim prizes every 5 pts. The AR prizes are given out every other Monday by parent volunteers. Students who meet their yearly goal will be rewarded with an AR SPLASH Day the last week of school. Teachers often have their own reward system which is in addition to the school wide rewards.