



# Norwood Park School 2015-2016 Independent Reading Requirements

## According to the Experts...

Research shows that it's not just time spent with a book in hand that determines a student's progress in reading; rather, it's the intensity and volume of a student's **high-success** reading that determines reading progress (Allington, 2012; Allington, 2009; Ehr, Dreyer, Flugman, & Gross, 2007; Kuhn et al., 2006). When students read at their **independent reading level**, they are engaged in high-success reading because, at this level, they can both read accurately and understand what they are reading. Reading accurately allows them to solidify their word-recognition, decoding, and word analysis skills. Perhaps more importantly, students who read accurately are likely to understand what they read and, as a result, to enjoy reading! When students have the opportunity to choose the books that they read, the likelihood of enjoying reading and improving comprehension is further increased (Krashen, 2011; Guthrie & Humenick, 2004)!

## Independent Reading

Based on the research, teachers at Norwood Park have set school-wide expectations for independent reading that students should do outside of the school day. During independent reading time, students are required to read text at their independent reading level as follows:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
Pre-K	15 min/day (Read or be read to)	15 min/day (Read or be read to)
Kindergarten	10 min/day M-Th +10 wknd minutes	20 min/day M-Th +20 wknd minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	15 min/day M-Th +15 wknd minutes	20 min/day M-Th +20 wknd minutes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	20 min/day M-Th +20 wknd minutes	25 min/day M-Th +25 wknd minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	30 min/day M-Th +60 wknd min.	30 min/day M-Th + 60 wknd minutes
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	30 min/day M-Th +60 wknd minutes	30 min/day M-Th +90 wknd minutes
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	180 choice minutes per week	

## Reading Responses

While meeting the independent reading minutes is an important part of building reading proficiency, research shows that students must also respond to the text they read in order to strengthen comprehension skills. Therefore, Norwood Park students are also required to respond to the text they read independently. Norwood Park teachers will call this portion of students' reading homework Reading Responses. Reading Responses will ask students to reflect upon and demonstrate understanding of the text they have read. The specific form of the Reader's Response will vary from grade to grade. Please contact your child's Reading teacher with questions regarding Independent Reading Minutes and/or Reading Responses.



At Norwood Park School, Independent Reading Minutes and Reading Responses will count as part of the homework component of the student's reading grade.

At times throughout the year, teachers will designate the genre of books that students need to read. Other times, students will have free choice in selecting their independent reading books.