

The Accelerated Reader Program

We believe our students should study to show themselves approve concerning their spiritual development and academically. (2 Timothy 2:15) The Accelerated Program was adapted to encourage students to become lifelong readers who apply literary skills to analyze, reflect and understand books from various genres and to strengthen and increase critical thinking and vocabulary skills. The following criterion has been established to ensure students read literature that promotes and engages them in reading literature that will help encourage character consistent with that of Christ.

Emerging and Developing Readers

Students in grades 1-3 will continue to read books at the current designated reading and interest levels and reach assigned AR point goals for each quarter.

(ADD link to pdf with levels etc.)

Fluent Readers

Students in grades 4-8 should read AR books with designated interest levels and grade level; each being a vital part of the AR book selection process; along with reaching the assigned AR point goals for each quarter.

- Each AR book is assigned the following interest levels: Lower Grades, Middle Grade and Upper Grade Readers.
 - Lower Grades = K-3 Middle Grade = Grades 4-8 Upper Grade = 9-12
 - The interest level refers to literary complexity of the text due to the themes, topics, sentence length and vocabulary.
 - The reading level refers to the grade level assigned to a specific book.
- Students are expected to read books within Calvary's recommended and pre-existing reading interest and book levels.
 - Students in grades 4 may read books classified as lower grades and middle grades. Some themes and topics are still appropriate for students to read from lower grades. Middle grade classification consists of reading interest topics are appropriate for students to read in 5th grade.
 - Students in grades 5 may read books classified as middle grades.
- Students in grades 6-8 may read books classified as upper grades. *The librarian and classroom teacher may consider modifications when a student's academic progress is at risk and/ or deem it necessary to recommend more challenging texts.

*Some books have a lower reading level but are designated as upper grade. The complexity of the literary elements addressed, themes, critical thinking skills required and topics classify these books as such.

AR Books from Neighborhood Libraries and Home Libraries

Calvary has an extensive library collection of literary works; both fiction and nonfiction. The Accelerated Reader Program adds hundreds of new titles; yearly to its massive collection. We strive to acquire and extend our school library yearly to meet the needs of our readers. However, we do not have an exhaustive collective of all books the Accelerated Reading Program has.

Considering this factor, students may decide to select books they are interested in from their local libraries. In order to ensure students are selecting books at the approved interest and book levels and have appropriate language and topics they must be preapproved by the librarian (or library staff??) before students proceed to test.

- AR books students bring in from other libraries should not:
 - Have language that uses profanity.
 - Have sexual descriptions, references and condones homosexuality etc.
 - Promote unnecessary violence.
 - * We understand that we live in a world inundated with violence on T.V., in social media, music and literature. However, as a Christian school, developing student leaders, it is vital that we consider what enters their eye gates and may be deposited into their hearts and minds. Philippians 4:8 says, “Fix your thoughts on whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.” With this in mind students:
 - May select books in which the nature of the violent actions:
 - Shows the triumph of good over evil.
 - Leads to demonstrating how characters transform into individuals who abandon such actions to help make society better.
 - Students may not select books in which the nature of the violent actions:
 - Portray and promote physical, verbal and emotional abuse with no resolution that leads to positive changes in characters’ behavior.
 - Extensive, detailed and graphic descriptions of violent actions occurring to solely entertain readers.
 - Be a literary work that promotes the occult through descriptions and use witchcraft and magic.