

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a reading program that encourages students to be independent readers who can read and comprehend a variety of genres. Students read books at their specific reading and interest levels. After reading the books they take quizzes on them to assess their understanding. This enables the teacher and students to monitor their progress as a reader.

We believe our students should study to show themselves approved 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 are being taught crucial foundational skills to grow into excellent readers. They should be encouraged to read their picture books 2-3 times to support comprehension and fluency. Discussing their books with questions about characters, problems, solutions and story details aide in their development.

Fluent Readers

Students in grades 4-8 have been reading for a while and will continue to build on the skills and strategies they have acquired as they read chapter books. Additionally, they are learning more complex skills to analyze, comprehend and discuss various genres of literature. These students should read frequently and use strategies to help expand their thinking and aide with comprehension.

Accelerated Reader's Book Classifications

Each AR books has a designated interest and grade level.

- 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 some books classified as middle grades.
 - 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.

Accelerated Reading Points

Each student is expected to achieve their Accelerated Reader goals each quarter. This includes a specific number of points per grade level and a quiz average of 85% or higher.

The school website has the Accelerated Reader goals for points for each grade level.

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 reading levels, have appropriate language and topics they must be preapproved by the library staff before students can read and test on them.

There is much exposure to violence on T.V., in social media, music and literature. As a Christian school developing leaders, it is vital that we consider what enters their eye gates and may be deposited into their hearts and minds. (Philippians 4:8) 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:
 - Promote physical, verbal and emotional abuse with no resolution that leads to positive changes in in characters' behavior.
 - Contains extensive, detailed and graphic descriptions of violent actions occurring solely to entertain readers.
 - Promotes the occult through descriptions and use of witchcraft and magic.
- Should avoid books with:
 - Profanity and vulgar language.
 - Sexual descriptions, reference and condone homosexuality etc.
 - Unnecessary violence.